

Chess Canada



World Chess Championship



The Shenanigans Persist



Plus much more...

The Fischer Find
Secret Weapons
Spotlight on Winnipeg
New Kid on the Block
World Youth Championship

Canada \$3.95



EDITORIAL



Robert Hamilton

Welcome to the first quarterly issue of Chess Canada. As part of transitioning from bi-monthly to quarterly we promised, and delivered, lots of changes to the magazine.

Any time a publication goes through the number of changes that Chess Canada did it represents a lot of additional work. I want to extend a special thanks to John MacPhail for all the extra hours he committed to this issue.

On the inside you'll notice a new feature called Secret Weapons by Canadian Champ Igor Zugic. Each issue Igor will be presenting an enterprising opening that players can add to their arsenal. Even if you don't intend to adopt Igor's suggested weapon, you might want to read the article just in case you play someone who does.

Kevin Spraggett's coverage of the international scene in our fall issue was his last article for the magazine. I want to thank Kevin for having come aboard Chess Canada in my first issue as editor and for having contributed until the end of 2006. There is nobody in Canada with more experience in international chess than Kevin.

Since our last issue, Chess Federation President Chris Mallon resigned his post for health reasons. Vice-President Bill Doubleday is now the new President. Bill is an able professional whose years of experience should benefit the federation.

As we go to press, organizers in Ottawa are busy planning the 2007 Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Championships. With Gordon Ritchie serving as event Chair the events are in capable hands and should be excellent. Add in the annual Quebec Open and this summer's Kitchener Chess Festival, and it promises to be another big year in the heartland of Canadian Chess.

If you've been confused by the international chess scene lately, you're not alone. Constant revisions to the World Chess Championship and off year title matches have left experienced world chess followers asking questions. Add in confusing allegations of wrong-doing in top flight matches, and it becomes a lot to digest. We've dedicated space to sifting through it all for our readers and making it much easier to understand.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Yours truly,
Robert Hamilton
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It's been a busy few months for World Champion Vladimir Kramnik. In Russia he defeated champion Topalov. He then lost to Fritz 10 in Germany. Next, it was off to Paris to marry French journalist Marie-Laure Germon.

photo: www.chessbase.com

FEATURE ARTICLE:
FIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
THE SHENANIGANS PERSIST

PAGE 11

Articles:

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In the News

by Robert Hamilton

Gerzhoy finds Groove

About eighteen months ago talented Israeli Junior, IM Leonid Gerzhoy, moved to Toronto. In his first few events, Leonid had trouble finding his form, but last summer he tied third in the Canadian Open and he's been on a roll since.

In the Canadian Closed Championship Leonid performed at 2483, which was good enough to tie second. He then

performed at 2500 to win the Toronto Open outright followed by a superb 2550 performance to win the Canadian Junior. Leonid has a solid positional style, and he didn't lose a game in these three events.

With his recent victories Leonid has steadily been climbing the Canadian rankings, and he's currently ranked seventh in Canada and on the rise.



Gerzhoy – on a roll

photo: www.monroi.com

Spraggett's Fall Ascent

Canada's top player, Kevin Spraggett continues to defy odds by improving his international rating well into his fifties. This may sound trivial to those unfamiliar with the rigours of top flight chess, but it's remarkably rare. Most strong players hit their peak by thirty. After that it's normally a question of how rapid the descent is.

Spraggett spent the fall playing in four events in Spain, Serbia & Montenegro and France where he tacked 23 points onto his rating to reach his all-time high of 2633.

In those events he faced twenty-nine opponents, including many strong Grandmasters, losing only twice.

With his recent surge, Spraggett has become the second highest rated player in the world over fifty on FIDE's top active players list. A rare accomplishment indeed.



Spraggett, reaching new heights

Canadian Ratings Rise

In the past ten years a large increase in the participation levels of junior players in key Canadian markets has led to pronounced rating deflation. The talented juniors have been rapidly taking points out of the system as their own strengths and ratings have improved.

A National Rating Committee was established to review the rating system and decided to take two measures. The first was a retroactive rating increase for all members who had been active in the past few years. The second is the impending introduction of an ongoing review process

for ensuring rating stability.

Essentially, the retroactive boon applied to all games played between July 1, 2004 and September 1, 2006. Players below 2200 were awarded 1 point per game; players below 2400, ½ point; and players above 2400, ¼ point.

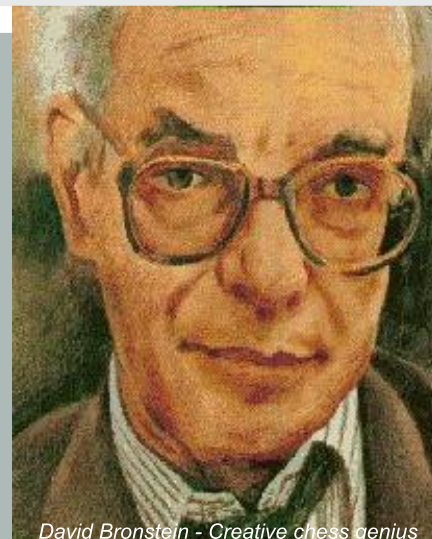
The Magnificent Genius

Creative chess great David Bronstein is among the strongest players never to have become World Champion. In his 1951 title bout with legendary Mikhail Botvinnik, Bronstein needed only one point from the final two games to claim the crown, but he fell short.

In December, Bronstein passed away at 82 years of age. But the legacy he left was large. Many decades of top flight chess

produced a brilliant collection of games, and he was one of the most colourful and instructive authors among the world's elite players.

With Bronstein's passing, only Smyslov, Korchnoi and Spassky remain from the powerful Soviet school of the 1950s and '60s. Our tribute to David Bronstein begins on page 32 of this issue.



David Bronstein - Creative chess genius

image: www.skkamrateme.se



Chess - Big-time sport in Iceland
photo: www.chessbase.com

The Fischer Find

In a chess crazed nation like Iceland, it's not surprising that chess is elevated to big time sport on television. But for television chess analyst, GM Helgi



Black to play (page 41)

Olafsson, what is surprising is to receive a phone call at the end of the game from...you guessed it, Bobby Fischer.

Fischer, who was among the television audience, grew a little frustrated when the analysts overlooked a sparkling combination. He pointed out a little Fischer flash by phone that you can check out on page 41.

Fischer has called Iceland home ever since the Icelanders intervened on his behalf in his disputes with the US government. According to Icelandic diplomats, Fischer did a lot for their country and they never forget who their friends are.

Short Set for Ottawa

Former World Chess Championship finalist Nigel Short has been confirmed as a participant in the upcoming Canadian Open Championship this summer in Ottawa. As a child prodigy Short attracted international attention by beating World Championship finalist Victor Korchnoi in a simultaneous display at ten years of age. He broke many youth records before starting his assault on the World Championship. In the 1993 World Championship Cycle he won a string of impressive Candidates Matches, including his victory over legendary champion Anatoly Karpov. Only Garry Kasparov

was able to prevent Short from becoming king.

Short has twice done battle on Canadian soil. He participated in the 1982 Quebec Open in Montreal, and returned to Canada in 1988 to win his Candidates Match against Hungarian Grandmaster Gyula Sax at Saint John's prestigious World Chess Festival.

The Canadian Youth Chess Championship and the Canadian Open will be staged in July. For details on the events check out the ad on page 47 of this issue.



Short to play in Ottawa

In the Mail

Jonathan Berry is a long-standing contributor to Canadian chess: as a player both by correspondence and over the board, as a chess journalist, as an author, as a long-time Business Manager of the CFC, and as Canada's most distinguished arbiter. Beyond having edited this magazine for many years, Jonathan currently writes a chess column for the Globe and Mail newspaper. Jonathan sent us the following account of his recent tournament in Seattle. —Editor

GM Slugfest—Count your BAPs

The GM Slugfest in Bellevue, Washington, saw 6 GMs, 3 IMs, and 5 others compete under Clint Ballard's novel BAP system. GM Victor Mikhalevski proved that a bishop is sometimes better than a rook, winning against GM Julio Becerra in the last round to catapult over the opposition for 10 BAPs and the entire \$5,000 prize fund. GMs Lubomir Ftacnik and Greg Serper tied for second with 9 BAPs. Early leader GM Alex Shabalov was shut out on the final day, and his 8 BAPs were equalled by GM Varuzhan Akobian, IM Josh Friedel, and this writer.

So, what is a BAP, old chap? It is a Ballard Anti-draw Point, and that indeed is the point. Clint Ballard is not alone in seeing short, formal draws as enemies of chess, but he has devised a system to combat them.

Under the BAP system, a win with Black scores 3, a win with White 2, a draw with Black 1, and the other three possibilities zero. While a decisive game is worth 2 or 3—let's say an average of about 2.5—a draw is worth 1. So there is a big incentive not to draw. Ironically, willingness to accept that the result of a game might be a draw was a marker for success in the tournament. All 7 draws (out of 40 games) involved the top 10 finishers, and each of those top 10 was involved in at least one draw. Needless to say, all games were fought to the bitter end.

Many commentators (i.e., people who did not play in the tournament) noted that it was unacceptable to draw with White and be credited zero for it. And I

felt bittersweet about my draw—with White against GM Akobian. Maybe the goals could be achieved as well by boosting up to 4 for a win with Black...down to 1 for a draw with White. But I told Clint that, if he invited me, I would come back for the 2007 version!

Two notes about the pairings:

1. in each group, top was paired against bottom and middle against middle, just like in the old British Championships. This worked OK, but would have been even better in a tournament with a narrower range of strengths.
2. without exception, colours were always alternated in even rounds. As a corollary, a BAP Swiss tournament must have an even number of rounds. This also worked.

What is the point of spending 10+ grand on an experiment if nobody reacts to the pairings and system? Our most public-minded participant was GM Ftacnik. He had much to say. I'm not sure what his final verdict will be, but after having a chance to win it all in the last round (he lost with White to GM Serper), he told me that he was content. Of course, improvements are always possible.

After two rounds of balloting, internet fans chose my last-round game against IM Pruess as their favourite. Here is the flawed, but interesting, encounter:

**IM Pruess – FM Berry [C60]
GM Slugfest Paragon Hotel (6),
10.12.2006**

[Notes by Jon Berry]

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 g6

A 19th century variation revived by Smyslov in 1975.

4. d4 ed4 5. ♙g5! ♙b4



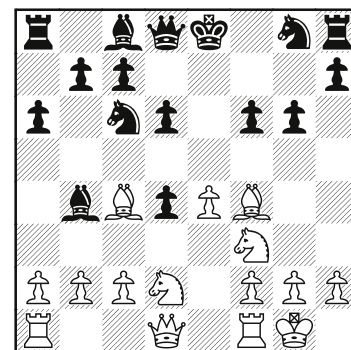
Jonathan Berry

Having played ♙e7 a lot, in particular two rounds earlier against Pruess's fellow San Francisco Mechanic Josh Friedel, I prepared a different move.

6. ♘bd2

The main line is 6. c3 dc3 7. ♘c3 f6. White has plenty of compensation, but most players do not like to gambit when they figure they will get a good position anyway.

6... f6 7. ♙f4 a6 8. ♙c4 d6 9. 0-0



9... ♘e5

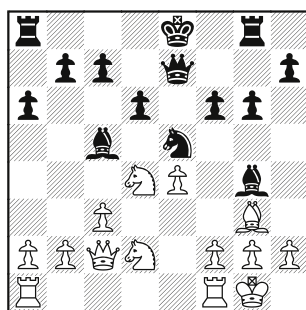
Evidently a new move, whereas 9... ♙e7 would transpose to Marco-Pillsbury, Hastings 1898, which ECO 2nd

edition (the line was removed starting with the 3rd edition) evaluates as +/- . It's a bit of a thrill to make a TN after 108 years. In case you're wondering, no, this was not a prepared line. And White made all his moves 7 through 11 in zero minutes as he was thinking on my time!

10. ♖g8 ♜g8

Or 10... ♙d2 11. ♜d2 ♘f3 12. gf3 ♜g8 13. ♜d4, unclear.

11. ♘d4 ♙c5 12. c3 ♜e7 13. ♙g3 ♙g4 14. ♜c2



14...g5

A committal plan to inhibit f2–f4 and keep the ♘ on e5. It also opens up weaknesses on the light squares, which White goes for immediately. He took only 2 minutes on all his moves from 15 through 19, as he felt that he was strategically obliged to activate the last ineffective piece. He rejected lines where White advances the pawns on the ♜-side. But either the plan or its implementation is flawed, as Black gets the upper hand.

15. ♜fe1 h5 16. f3

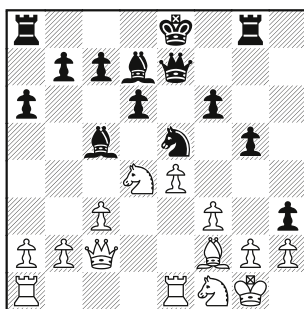
Unattractive for White would be 16. h3 ♙d7 17. ♘f1?! h4 18. ♙h2?! g4!

16... ♙d7 17. ♘f1

In my biased opinion, White should not allow h4 to come in with tempo: 17. ♙f2 was indicated, then 17... h4 can be met by 18. h3.

17... h4 18. ♙f2 h3

Attacks and destroys the base of White's pawn chain, à la Suttles!



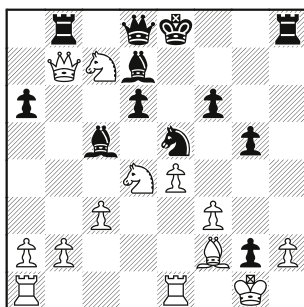
19. ♘e3 hg2

A quieter choice is 19... 0-0-0. I confess that I was more looking at a ♘ drop-in to f5 than to d5.

20. ♘d5 ♜d8 21. ♜b3

Continuing a near Blitz pace. White had taken 6 minutes on move 6, and 9 minutes on move 13, but so far for the game had used only 28 minutes. However, over the next 4 moves, White took 72 minutes and Black 2. That this move does not win the game for White is a major tactical underpinning of Black's play. And quiet play gives Black the upper hand: 21. ♙g2 c6 22. ♘e3 ♜h8±.

21... ♜h8 22. ♜b7 ♜b8 23. ♘c7



23... ♙f7?

After the game, David was miffed at how all the variations were good for Black. White has mobilized his forces, grabbed squares and pawns all over the place, chased Black's king into the open, yet somehow everything clicks for Black, even when he doesn't make the best move. My only counter was that The Base is a mighty powerful concept. Black could play 23... ♙e7! 24. ♘d5 ♙f7 25. ♜a6 ♜h2! 26. ♙h2

♜h8 27. ♙g2 ♜h3 28. ♙g1 ♘f3 29. ♘f3 ♜g3 which would have made a matching bookend to the game against Friedel.

24. ♜d5 ♙g6 25. ♘ce6 ♜g8

The computer says that both 25... ♜e7 and 25... ♜c8 are better choices. I chose g8 probably because I like the idea of the queen operating at a distance, like some Jupiter, especially if it can get to h7.

26. ♙g2?

White had a vast smorg of options, for example: 26. f4 ♙e6?! 27. f5; 26. ♘c5 ♜d5 27. ♘d7.

26... ♙e6 27. ♘e6

Or 27. ♜e6 ♜e6 28. ♘e6 ♙f2 29. ♜e2 ♙a7+.

27... ♙f2?

Here 27... ♜b2 28. ♘c5 ♜h7 is crushing.

28. ♙f2?

The last quasi-chance was 28. ♜e2.

28... ♜b2 29. ♙e3 ♜hh2 30. ♘d4 ♜c8

I was well pleased to find another gravitational move.

31. c4 ♘c4 32. ♘d3 ♘e5

White resigns:

0–3

In discussing the tournament after the game, David, who is the 2006 Samford Fellow, pointed to his interesting third-round encounter with GM Julio Becerra. He held the advantage for much of the game, but when Black rustled up enough play to draw, rather than take the straightforward repetition, David ventured a variation on it which even lost the game. He said that he wanted to find a way to avoid that kind of loss, which has plagued his recent play. Perhaps this game is another case, as 26. ♙g2 looks like an example of calculation fatigue.





New Kid on the Block

by Robert Hamilton

Born in Toronto, Shiyam Thavandarian learned to play chess by watching his brother and mother play. "I was five, and wanted to learn so I could play them." At seven, Shiyam entered his first rated competition, a Canadian Youth Chess Championship qualifier. The rest is history. Within five years Shiyam was winning strong tournaments, and in 2005 he became the youngest Canadian Junior Chess Champion ever, winning the event with a dominant score of 8.5/9.

Recently, Shiyam has been turning in some excellent results. He placed an impressive 11th in the recent Canadian Championship, winning the FM title. He finished second in the super-strong Toronto Labour Day tournament, and then it was off to Bat'umi, Georgia, where he was a frontrunner in the World Under 14 Chess Championship.

Shiyam has been good enough to annotate a couple of his games for us. Have a look and you'll see why he's been chosen as our New Kid on the Block.



Name: Shiyam Thavandiran
Date of birth: May 25, 1992
Home: Scarborough, Ontario
Favourite as White: 1. e4
Favourite as Black: Nimzo-Indian
Favourite player: Garry Kasparov
Self-description: Strategic & Tactical
Other activities: Basketball & Band

Thavandiran – Janiashvili [C14] World U14, Batumi (6), 19.10.2006

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♜f6 4. ♙g5 ♙e7 5. e5 ♜fd7 6. ♙e7 ♞e7 7. f4 a6 8. ♜f3 c5 9. dc5 ♜c5

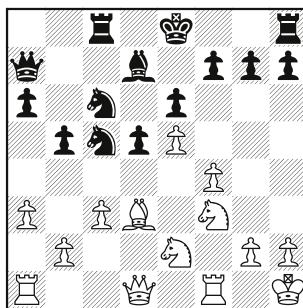
Here 9... ♜c6 is a more popular option so ...♞c5 could be played, which disrupts White's plans of castling kingside.

10. ♙d3 ♜c6 11. 0-0 b5 12. ♜e2 ♞a7?!

With a less than subtle threat.

13. ♜h1 ♙d7 14. a3 ♞c8 15. c3

White's last two moves were not necessary, but I decided just to deprive Black of counterplay (...b4) and see what his plan is.

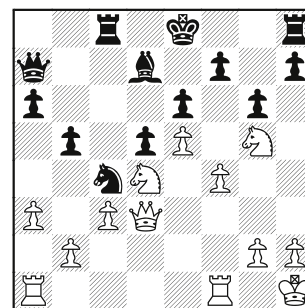


15... ♜d3 16. ♞d3 ♜a5 17. ♜ed4

Here I felt Black was strategically lost. All his pieces have bleak futures, and with my space advantage and superior piece placement, it would be a matter of time before the decisive knockout punch. And then Black's next move voluntarily

weakens crucial dark squares.

17... g6 18. ♜g5 ♜c4

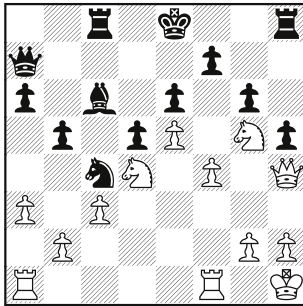


19. ♞h3! h5

Or 19... ♜b2 20. ♞h6 planning ♞g7.

20. ♞h4! ♙c6

Or 20... ♖b2 21. ♖f7 ♖f7 22. ♖f6 ♖g8 23. ♖g6 ♖f8 24. f5 ef5 25. e6 ♖e8 26. ♖f5 ♖e7 27. ♖g7 ♖d6 28. ♖a7.

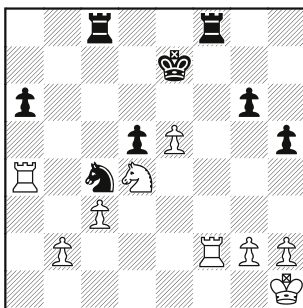


21. ♖ge6! ♖e7 22. ♖e7?!

Objectively best, but 22. ♖g5!? would leave Black with dim practical chances of holding the position.

22... ♖e7 23. ♖c6 ♖c6 24. ♖d4 ♖cc8 25. ♖f2 f6 26. a4! fe5 27. fe5 ba4 28. ♖a4 ♖hf8

Or 28... ♖e5 29. ♖e2 ♖d6 30. ♖a6.



29. ♖f6

Victory was now looking elusive, and the choice at move 22 was haunting me.

29... ♖f6

Or 29... ♖e5 30. ♖e6 ♖d7 31. h3! ♖ce8 32. ♖aa6.

30. ef6 ♖f6 31. ♖a6 ♖f7 32. b4 ♖d2 33. ♖c6 ♖e4 34. h4!

Fixing the weak g6-pawn.

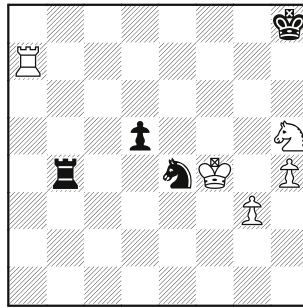
34... ♖c3 35. ♖e5 ♖f8 36. ♖g6 ♖g7 37. ♖f4 ♖c4 38. ♖h5 ♖h8 39. g3 ♖b4 40. ♖a7!

With mating threats and healthy passers, I “knew” I would win easily. Overconfidence!

40... ♖e4 41. ♖g2 ♖b2 42. ♖f3 ♖b3 43. ♖f4?

Better is 43. ♖g4 ♖b4 44. ♖f4.

43... ♖b4



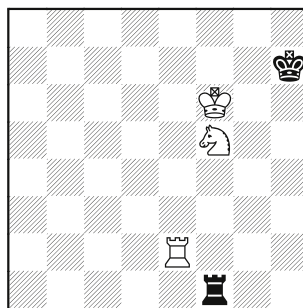
44. ♖e5??

All the hard work wasted! I definitely did not miss ...♖g3 sacrificing his knight for a drawn endgame. I missed that after 44... ♖g3 45. ♖f6 Black has 45... ♖h4 stopping the mate! Yikes!

44... ♖g3 45. ♖g3 ♖h4 46. ♖f5 ♖h1 47. ♖d5 ♖g8 48. ♖e6

Over the next 20 moves or so, I was simply contemplating why I didn't play 22. ♖g5 and 43. ♖g4. Of course this was entirely the wrong approach as there are still some slim winning chances in White's position.

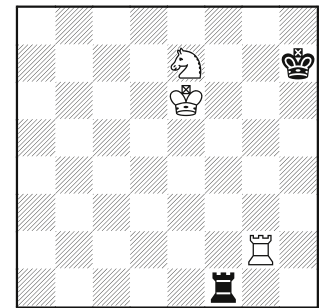
48... ♖e1 49. ♖f6 ♖f1 50. ♖g7 ♖h8 51. ♖g4 ♖f2 52. ♖g6 ♖g8 53. ♖h4 ♖g2 54. ♖f6 ♖f2 55. ♖h5 ♖f1 56. ♖h2 ♖f4 57. ♖b2 ♖f1 58. ♖a2 ♖h7 59. ♖a8 ♖f2 60. ♖f8 ♖f1 61. ♖c8 ♖f2 62. ♖c4 ♖f1 63. ♖c2 ♖g8 64. ♖c3 ♖f2 65. ♖g6 ♖g2 66. ♖g3 ♖f8 67. ♖f6 ♖f2 68. ♖f5 ♖g8 69. ♖c8 ♖h7 70. ♖c7 ♖g8 71. ♖e5 ♖e2 72. ♖f6 ♖f2 73. ♖c5 ♖f1 74. ♖c2 ♖h7 75. ♖e2



I think it was around here when I finally broke out of my trance and actually looked at the position! I realized that the knight doesn't belong on f5, it belongs on

f6 for any possible mating nets.

75... ♖g8 76. ♖e6 ♖f8 77. ♖e7 ♖g7 78. ♖g2 ♖h7 79. ♖h2 ♖g7 80. ♖g2 ♖h7



81. ♖g8!

My original plan here was to play ♖d5, but I quickly realized on g8 the knight cuts off h6 and also threatens to move to f6. Now I literally held my breath...

81... ♖e1??

Here 81... ♖a1 and checking from the side would still draw.

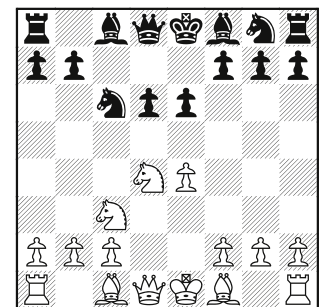
82. ♖f7 1-0

A tense battle! With this win I had the sole lead with 5.5/6, but I would only score 1.5/5 in the second half, which included 2 losses in a row at the end. Had I won those 2 games I would be World Champion! A really disappointing finish.

Thavandiran - Gerzhoy [B80]

Simcoe Day Pro Am 2006

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♖d4 ♖c6 5. ♖c3 e6!?



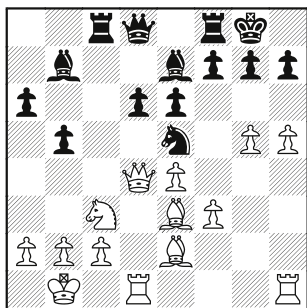
An interesting move order to avoid main line theory.

6. ♖e3 ♖f6 7. f3 ♖e7 8. ♖d2 0-0 9. 0-0-0 a6 10. g4 ♖d4 11. ♖d4!?

After some thought I decided to capture with the queen, as in a future attack

White's queen will be hitting the weak point on g7, and Black also has to worry about e5 threats.

11... b5 12. g5 ♖d7 13. h4 ♙b7
14. ♙e2 ♜c8 15. ♙b1 ♘e5 16. h5



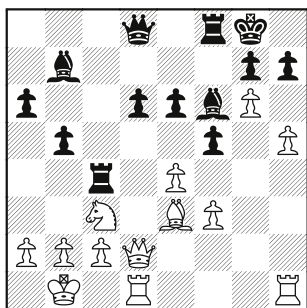
16... ♘c4

Or 16... ♙g5 17. f4 ♘c6 18. ♜d6 ♙e7 19. ♜d8 ♜fd8 20. ♙b6±.

17. ♙c4 ♜c4 18. ♜d2 f5?!

Black voluntarily weakens the g6 square for a central counterattack.

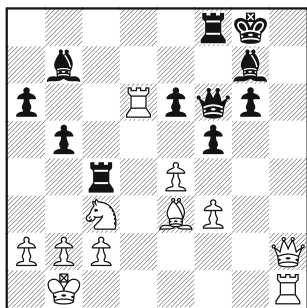
19. g6 ♙f6



20. h6! hg6

Or 20... b4 21. ♜h2 (the point of h6!) 21... bc3 22. hg7 Followed by ♜h7.

21. hg7 ♙g7 22. ♜h2 ♜f6 23. ♜d6



23... ♙c8

Defending against ♜h7 followed by ♜d7

winning a piece.

24. ef5 gf5

Here I was somewhat surprised. I thought my opponent was forced to take with the queen so he could get some counterplay, but I guess the ugliness of this move did not appeal to my opponent (24... ♜f5 25. ♘e4).

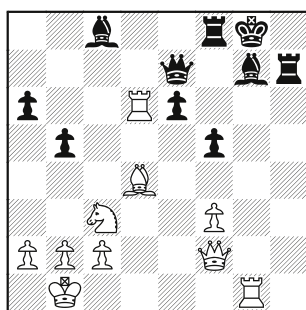
25. ♜g1!

Immediately questioning the safety of Black's king.

25... ♜h4 26. ♜f2 ♜h7 27. ♙d4

Some more interrogation.

27... ♜e7

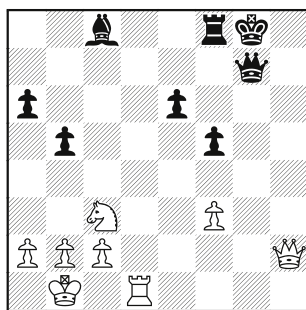


28. ♙e5!

Imprisoning the c8-bishop.

28... ♙h8 29. ♜g7 ♜g7 30. ♜h2!
♙g8 31. ♙g7 ♜g7 32. ♜d1!

The point of White's last few moves. The rook comes back to the first rank where it is most lethal.



32... ♜f6 33. ♘e2

The knight begins a journey.

33... ♜h6 34. ♜b8

A long, but annoying move for the opponent.

34... ♜f8 35. ♜g1 ♙h8 36. ♘f4
♜c5 37. ♘g6

The knight arrives at its first destination.

37... ♙g7 38. ♜g3

Not 38. ♘e7?? ♜g1.

38... ♜h3 39. ♜g5 ♜h5 40. ♜c1?!

Here I hallucinated that after 40. ♜g2 Black wins after 40. ♜h2!

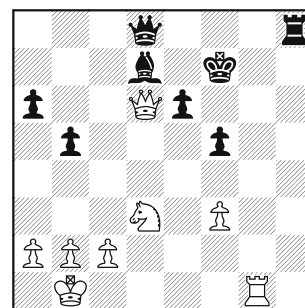
40... ♙f7 41. ♘f4

Going on another journey.

41... ♜h8 42. ♘d3 ♜d4 43. ♜g5!

Luring the queen away from the strong central square.

43... ♜f6 44. ♜f4 ♙d7 45. ♜d6
♜d8



46. c4?

A terrible move which nearly cost me the game had I not realized my mistake in time. 48. a3! would win comfortably after 46... ♙e8 47. ♘e5 ♜f8 (47... ♙c8 48. ♜d8 ♘d8 49. ♘f7) 48. ♜g7.

46... bc4 47. ♘e5

The knight arrives at its second destination.

47... ♙e8 48. ♜d4

Avoiding 48. ♜g7?? ♜h1 49. ♙c2 ♙a4, which would be a tragic finish to a great game.

48... ♜f8 49. ♘c4 ♜f6 50. ♘d6
♘d8 51. ♜b6 ♙e7 52. ♜c5 ♘d8
53. ♜d1 ♜g8 54. ♜b6 ♙e7 55. ♜c7

Threatening ♘c8.

55... ♜e5 56. ♘c8 ♙f6 57. ♜d7
♜e2 58. ♜e7 ♙e5 59. ♜d6 ♙f6
60. ♜d4 ♜e5 61. ♜h4 ♜g5 62. f4
♜e4 63. ♙a1

A game I was very proud of, except for a few slips. I was exceptionally happy with my overall strategic understanding and some interesting triangulations with the queen and rook, as well as some interesting manoeuvring by the knight.

1-0



In the Arena

by Robert Hamilton

FIDE World Chess Championship — The Shenanigans Persist

The stated goal of the 2006 FIDE World Chess Championship was to unify the title, alleviate confusion, and provide stability at the top...it really hasn't happened.

For thirteen years the chess world has suffered from having two entities claiming the right to crown World Champions. The Fédération Internationale des Échecs had been the sole body sanctioning World Championships since the World Championship Tournament of 1948. But in 1993 the reigning champion, Garry Kasparov, broke away from FIDE and launched the Professional Chess Association, which established a rival World Championship cycle.

The PCA attempted to maintain a legitimate process for selecting new challengers, and Kasparov played matches against the best available opponents. In 1993 he defeated the winner of the FIDE World Championship Cycle, England's Nigel Short. In 1995 he successfully defended his title against India's Viswanathan Anand. And in 2000, he did battle with fellow Russian Vladimir Kramnik. Kramnik eked out a narrow but legitimate victory, and defended the PCA crown once, against Hungarian Peter Leko in 2004.

During those same years, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov relentlessly tinkered with the World Championship format, causing serious damage to the prestige of the event. He turned the championship match into a lottery-style competition that crowned a number of mediocre world champions.

The two separate cycles led to considerable confusion, and neither entity proved able to establish a regular cycle with reliable sponsorship. There could be little doubt that the chess world was better served by a unified championship. Pri-



Kramnik and Topalov start the match, woefully unaware of what lies ahead

Kramnik	1	1	½	½	(0)	½	½	0	0	1	½	½	6	½	1	0	1	2½
Topalov	0	0	½	½	(1)	½	½	1	1	0	½	½	6	½	0	1	0	1½

or to 2006, the closest we got was the 2002 "Prague Agreement," which outlined unification terms. Unfortunately, key parties to the agreement failed to uphold it.

Under various pressures, FIDE retracted some of its moves, and went back in 2005 to a more credible process for selecting a World Champion. In San Luis, Argentina, the FIDE World Championship was an all-play-all eight player event. At that event, Veselin Topalov dazzled the chess world...though a few still questioned his legitimacy as champ.

Kramnik wasn't among the competitors in San Luis. He claimed that the Prague Agreement entitled him to a match on even terms with the FIDE champion, a right he would most certainly forfeit by playing within the FIDE cycle. Topalov's initial response was that the

challenge was not well founded. After all, Kramnik had dropped to sixth on the international rating list and didn't resemble a World Champion in any of his recent events.

But Kramnik persisted. Seeing the opportunity to bury doubts about FIDE as the sole body to sanction championships, FIDE introduced a new clause that assured challengers over 2700 with adequate financial backing a crack at the champion. Cynical FIDE watchers dubbed it "the Kramnik clause."

Believing that all that was involved was beating Kramnik and collecting an extra paycheck, Topalov acceded to the million-dollar match. Both players signed future non-compete agreements with FIDE and the stage was set for Elista, 2006.

Heading in, most insiders considered Topalov the heavy favourite.

He'd spent the past two years slashing elite Grandmasters, and was rated number 1 in the world. If he has an obvious weakness, it is that he doesn't remain objective about his positions. He goes for the win when a handshake would make much more sense. Kramnik is an experienced match player who is a very tough nut to crack. His inability to remain at the very top of the international rankings has more to do with not racking up huge scores than it does with dropping full points.

Much to everyone's surprise, the start of the match was a disaster for Topalov. In round 1, Kramnik as White played his favourite Catalan. The game seemed balanced after the opening, but then Topalov played a creative pawn advance. He seized the initiative but never found a winning thread. Instead, he overpressed and wound up losing. The game was reminiscent of game 1, Fischer vs Spassky, 1972.

In round 2, when Kramnik defended with a sturdy variation of the Slav, Topalov got a space advantage that allowed for a vicious king-side attack, and Topalov didn't disappoint. The game involved a spectacular sacrifice by Topalov but, just when he could have cashed in, he overlooked a fairly simple tactic. Later, the position was equal, but Topalov overpressed again and fell behind 2-0. Rounds 3 and 4 were spirited draws, so the score stood at 3-1.

After round 4, the match exploded in controversy. Camp Topalov alleged that Kramnik was receiving computer assistance in his bathroom between moves. In their formal complaint to the organizing committee, they claimed that Kramnik was visiting the bathroom more than fifty times each game. It was just the kind of spectacle the media loves, and suddenly the otherwise quiet match in Elista was front page headlines around the world.

The appeals committee ruled that players would henceforth use a common bathroom. Outraged at the ruling, Kramnik demanded that the appeals committee be removed. He failed to show for game five, and Topalov was awarded the game by forfeit.

FIDE's unification bout seemed to have collapsed. FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who was in Sochi



FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov averted near disaster by persuading Topalov and Kramnik to complete the match

photo: Fritz Agterdenbos

meeting with Russian President Putin, returned to Elista to try and sort things out.

After two days of negotiation and speculation, the appeals committee was dismissed, and Kramnik agreed to play on under protest. The forfeit of game five stood, so the score was 3-2 Kramnik.

Round six was an uneventful draw, and in round seven Topalov nearly lost with the white pieces. But in round eight he won a well played game with Black, to level the score at 4-4. Round nine saw Topalov play well again to score another full point and gain his first lead in the match. But Kramnik leveled the score in round 10 and forced rapid play over-time by drawing games 11 and 12.

In the rapid play match, the first game was drawn, but then Kramnik won two of the remaining three, and was acclaimed FIDE World Champion.

Shortly after the match, Topalov tried to use the new FIDE clause, claiming the right to a re-match. But FIDE conveniently dragged things out so that Topalov's proposal no longer fit the time frames required by the regulations, and then denied him another kick at the can. And so Topalov has had three misfortunes, losing his title, his right to a re-match, and his spot in the 2007 World Championship Tournament.

An Instant Classic

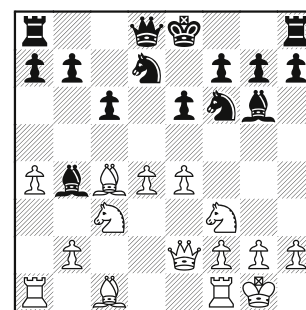
Every now and then a game of chess is played that becomes an instant classic. Game two of the Kramnik vs Topalov match was one such game. It had everything. A theoretical debate in the opening, spectacular sacrifices, sturdy defence, and problem-like endgame positions. And, yes, it even had some outright blunders.

Topalov – Kramnik [D19] World Championship (2), 24.09.2006

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖c3 ♜f6 4. ♜f3 dc4 5. a4 ♙f5 6. e3

The Slav has become one of Black's most reliable paths to equality in recent years. A main alternative to 6. e3 is 6. ♜e5 after which 6... ♖c7 and 6... ♜bd7 are Black's main responses.

6... e6 7. ♙c4 ♙b4 8. 0-0 ♜bd7 9. ♖e2 ♙g6 10. e4



Topalov offers to sacrifice his e-pawn. The line is well known to theory and considered risky for Black to accept.

10... 0-0 11. ♙d3 ♙h5 12. e5 ♜d5 13. ♜d5!?

An alternative is 13. ♜e4, but Black's position has proven to be very solid after 13... ♙e7 14. ♜g3 ♙g6 15. ♙g6 hg6.

13... cd5 14. ♖e3

A move that Kramnik has played in the past. White has some extra space on the king-side which offers some attacking chances.

continued on page 14

Your Guide to becoming FIDE World Champion

Zonal Championship

To begin, gain entry to your Zonal Championship. FIDE divides the world into 91 zones but, fortunately for you, Canada is a zone unto itself. Our Zonal is typically a nine-round Swiss, held every two years. To qualify you'll need to play in a few events to boost your rating to about 2200.

Here's a little tip. It's worth the extra effort to take first place in the Zonal since you'll get seeded directly into the World Cup Tournament. The two that finish behind you only qualify for the Continental Championship where they get another crack at advancing to the World Cup.

Continental Championship

Ouch, you didn't win the Zonal. But you finished in the top three, well done, so you advanced to the Continental Championship of the Americas. There are four Continental Championships around the world. Yours contains high finishers from five zones along with several other top players who qualify by other means.

Like the Zonal you played in, the Continental is a large Swiss. The top eight or so advance to the World Cup Tournament, so there's no big advantage to finishing first. You can hold back a little and save some of your novelties for later.

World Cup Tournament

Welcome to the World Cup! Here you join Zonal winners, Continental placers, and other seeded players to make up the field of 128.

The World Cup tournament is a frantic event. It's four rounds of



matches but without the match, just a sudden-death playoff. That is, the format is two-game mini-matches with the losers being knocked out. Half the players go home as vanquished prey after each round, leaving just eight of you predators after four rounds.

If you'd like to appear seasoned, you can complain about the format to anyone that will listen. But don't be stingy with your opening novelties: you must win four rounds of mini-matches to wind up in the final eight that qualify for the next stage.

Candidates Matches

So you were among the lions at the World Cup, bravo! Now the competition starts getting really tough. You are grouped with sixteen Candidates, the world's best, for the first round of matches.

About half the Candidates got here your way, the World Cup. But the strangers, though calmer, can't be taken too lightly. Four are the bottom finishers from the last World Championship Tournament of eight, determined to get back in and do better. A few other strangers made it in by rating...it's FIDE's catch-all to make sure nobody too deserving misses out.

You'll play a six-game match against another great player. The pairings are known well ahead, so you can use Fritz to dissect your opponent's

play. If you win, you advance to the second round of Candidates Matches, which is often played later in a separate location. This year FIDE is putting them on back-to-back in one venue, so players might want to anticipate who other winners could be and prepare for them as well. Only four winners advance from the Candidates Matches.

World Championship Tournament

Well, you sure turned some heads in the Candidates Matches, nice work! It's time to get your hair cut, because there'll be plenty of journalists at this Super-Grandmaster event.

This time out it's an eight-player double round robin tournament for the ultimate title. You'll recognize three of the eight from the Candidates Matches, but there'll be four strangers who've been scrutinizing your every move. These are the fantastic four who qualified by nailing down the top four spots in the previous World Championship Tournament—they'll be extra tough.

Wait, newsflash...it can't be so...you actually won the World Chess Championship! Amazing. You're going down in history as one of the great players of all time!

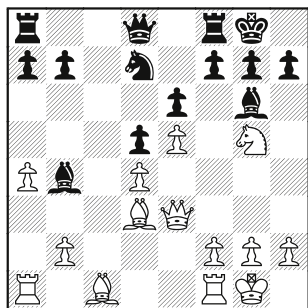
Oh, a small piece of advice...don't be too hasty about staking your guaranteed spot in the next World Championship Tournament in an off-year match, unless you're really sure of winning or don't mind re-starting way back in the cycle...

Upcoming Events:

- 2007 Candidates Matches – Elista, Russia (05-26, 06-14)
- 2007 World Chess Championship Mexico City, Mexico (09-12, 10-01)

14... ♔g6

Played with the idea of recapturing on g6 with the f-pawn, which would be very comfortable for Black. In the past, 14... h6 has been tried, but White is known to obtain a nagging advantage after 15. ♖e1!

15. ♖g5

White's violent intentions are clear. Topalov is planning to advance on the king-side with g4 and f4-f5.

15... ♜e8 16. f4 ♔d3

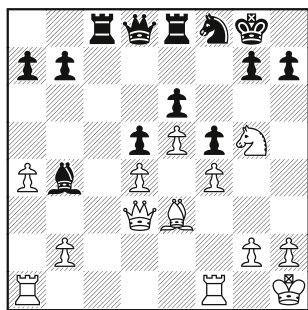
A novelty! Clearly Kramnik's team was ready for this variation.

17. ♖d3 f5!?

Black would be very comfortable after 18. ef6. Also, 18. ♖b5 accomplishes nothing. White's only chance at obtaining advantage will be to advance the g-pawn, but it must be timed correctly.

18. ♔e3 ♖f8 19. ♖h1 ♜c8?!

A nonchalant move which underestimates White's attack. Better was 19... ♔e7! when after 20. ♖f3 ♜c8 21. h3 ♖c7 22. ♜ac1 ♖d7 Black's position appears very solid.

**20. g4! ♖d7**

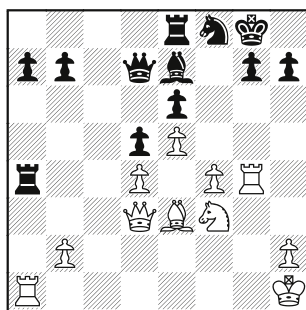
Had Kramnik tried 20... h6!?, there's little doubt that Topalov would have sacrificed his knight on e6 and been in for the ride. White's attack is very natural, and that's not the kind of position Camp Kramnik wanted. The alternative 20... g6? allows White strong pressure after 21. gf5 ef5 22. ♖b5, when suddenly the queen hits three targets. And then 22... ♖a5 23. ♖b7 ♜c7 24. ♖b5 clearly leaves White with the upper hand.

21. ♜g1! ♔e7 22. ♖f3

With 21... ♔e7, Kramnik was inviting the very Topalov-like 22. ♖e6!? which leads to a number of critical positions. The calm 22. ♖f3 suggests that Topalov felt his build up was strong enough that he didn't need the complexities of ♖e6.

22... ♜c4 23. ♜g2 fg4

It's a big concession for Kramnik to have to open the lines in front of his king, but it requires a lot of nerves, and exact calculation, to play a move like the alternative 23... ♖g6!? White would then have the option of playing b3 at any time to keep the a-pawn, or could embark on more aggressive lines like 24. gf5 ef5 25. ♖g5, which leads to complications.

24. ♜g4 ♜a4!?

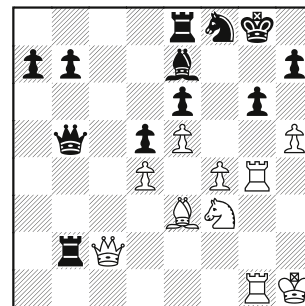
Kramnik doesn't see a forced win for White and challenges him by grabbing the a-pawn. The stakes have been raised.

25. ♜ag1 g6

Playing 25... ♖g6 hoping to untangle with ...♔f8, ...♖e7-f5 gets run over fast by 26. h4! ♔f8 27. ♖g5!

26. h4!

The entire game hinges on whether or not White will be successful in breaking down g6.

26... ♜b4 27. h5 ♖b5 28. ♖c2 ♜b2

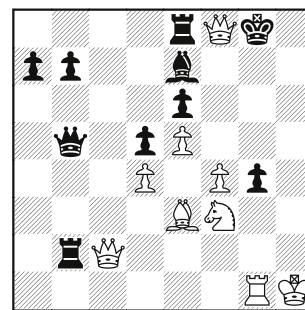
A tough move to criticize, but afterwards it's much easier for White to find the winning sequence. After 28... ♜b3!! 29. hg6 h5 White would have to find 30. ♜4g2!, resisting the temptation of playing 30. g7? hg4 31. gf8 ♖f8 32. ♖g6 ♖d3! 33. ♖h6 ♖f7 34. ♜g4 ♜g8 35. ♖h5 which only leads to a perpetual. After 30. ♜4g2 ♖d3 (not 30... ♔e3 31. g7 ♖h7 32. ♖g6!) 31. ♖d3 ♜d3 32. g7 ♖d7 33. ♜h2! ♖f7 34. ♜e2 ♖g8 (discouraging f5) 35. ♜g6 White remains better.

29. hg6!!

A spectacular sacrifice. Surely Topalov now felt that he was making up for his Game 1 loss in spades.

29... h5

Allowing the g file to open is fatal after 29... ♜c2 30. gh7 ♖h7 31. ♜g7 ♖h6 32. f5 ♖h5 33. f6!

30. g7 hg4 31. gf8 ♖

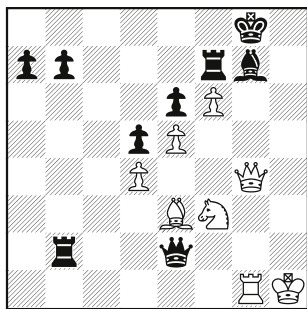
Clearly Kramnik hadn't worked out all

the ramifications of this queen sacrifice when grabbing the a-pawn. Black looks busted after 31... ♖f8 32. ♖g6 ♖e2 33. ♖g4. But Black has the spectacular 33... ♔g5!! after which it's not entirely clear how White wins. Rejecting the above, Kramnik overlooked a horizontal pin that should have cost him the full point.

31... ♔f8?? 32. ♖g6??

Wow. Both players overlooked 32. ♖g4 ♔g7 33. ♖c7! ♖f1 34. ♔g1 when Black can resign. Although obvious in hindsight, the notion of a horizontal pin cutting through a position with several defensive pieces around is unnatural and escaped both players.

32... ♔g7 33. f5 ♖e7 34. f6 ♖e2 35. ♖g4 ♖f7



Both players were a little low on time now. If 36. ♔h6, Black has 36... ♖b3! which seems to hold. Best for White may be 36. ♖h5! planning the cunning ♖g3 which threatens f7 followed by ♖e8 and ♖h3. And 36. ♖h5 ♖e3 37. ♔g5 wins for White. It would have been a tough move to meet low on time.

36. ♖c1 ♖c2! 37. ♖c2 ♖d1 38. ♔g2 ♖c2 39. ♔g3 ♖e4 40. ♔f4?!

Running short on time, Topalov tosses away what could be the last win. Stronger was 40. ♖e4 d4 41. ♔g5, which is not easy for Black to meet.

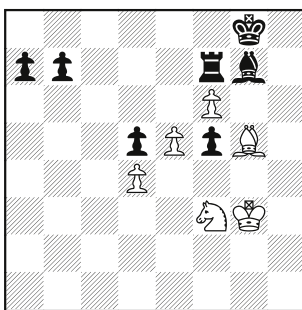
Then 41... ♔f6 42. ♔f7 ♔f7 43. ef6 is a straightforward win. Or 41... ♔h6 42. ♔f7 ♔e3 43. ♔d8 a5 44. d5! ♔b6 45. ♔e6 a4 46. ♔f4! heading for f5 and White winds up on top.

Even after 41... ♔f8!?, the kind of move that is tough to calculate in time pressure, White's pawns seem to

prevail in most lines. Consider 42. ♔e6 a5 43. ♔g5 a4 44. ♔f7 ♔f7 45. d5 a3 46. ♔d4 winning, or 42... b5 43. ♔f4! b4 44. ♔e4 a5 45. d5 a4 46. ♔f8 ♖f8 47. ♔c5 ♖c8 48. ♔d6 a3 49. e6 winning. Clearly Topalov couldn't work out the above variations and unmentioned subvariations in under five minutes. Plus, Black's best may actually be 41... ♖d7!?

The main point is that in most of the lines after 40. ♖e4! White seems to be winning, whereas after 40. ♔f4 Black seems to have enough resources.

40... ♖f5 41. ♖f5 ef5 42. ♔g5?

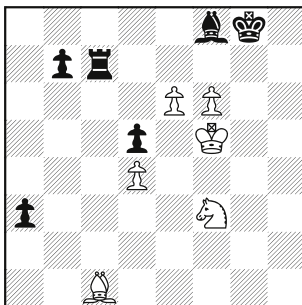


It appears as though Topalov was trying to avoid the likely draw that occurs after 42. ♔g5 ♖f6. Black could also choose 42... ♖c7!?, which is more complicated, but still appears drawish in most lines. But 42. ♔g5? is just a bad gamble in a position where White should be satisfied with a draw. Now, after Kramnik's reply, White has problems.

42... a5! 43. ♔f4 a4 44. ♔f5 a3

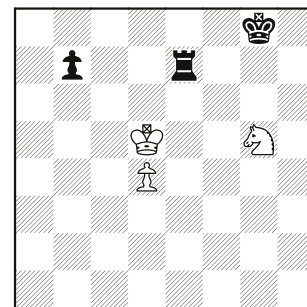
Well done by Kramnik to speed the a-pawn up the board. Now 45. e6 a2 46. e7 ♖c7 47. fe7 ♔f7 wins for Black. The initiative has changed hands.

45. ♔c1 ♔f8 46. e6 ♖c7!



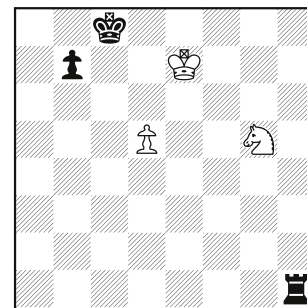
Unfortunately for Topalov 47. e7 ♔e7 48. fe7 ♖e7 49. ♔a3 ♖e3 wins for Black, which explains White's next move.

47. ♔a3 ♔a3 48. ♔e5 ♖c1 49. ♔g5 ♖f1 50. e7 ♖e1 51. ♔d5 ♔e7 52. fe7 ♖e7



The position is just winning for Black.

53. ♔d6 ♖e1 54. d5 ♔f8 55. ♔e6 ♔e8 56. ♔c7 ♔d8 57. ♔e6 ♔c8 58. ♔e7 ♖h1 59. ♔g5



This makes it a little quicker, but the outcome wasn't in doubt. Eventually Black would find the right sequence to get the b-pawn rolling.

59... b5 60. d6 ♖d1 61. ♔e6 b4 62. ♔c5 ♖e1 63. ♔f6 ♖e3

A very painful loss for Topalov.

0-1





Spotlight on Winnipeg, Part 2

by Frank Dixon

Seizing the Initiative, 1954 forward

On a relative basis the population of Winnipeg is tiny compared to the remainder of Canada. But the city made huge contributions to Canadian chess in the latter half of the 20th century.

Winnipeg produced one of our greatest players, contributed numerous members to the Canadian Olympiad team, held several Canadian Open and Closed tournaments and staged one of Canada's greatest events of all time.

In 1950, superstar Abe Yanofsky turned 25 years of age. The next few decades would be golden for Yanofsky as he established himself as Canada's greatest player. Yanofsky was both the perennial Board 1 anchor on the Canadian Olympiad Team and the perennial favourite to win the Canadian Championship. In spite of the fact that Yanofsky was a full time lawyer and family man, he set dozens of Canadian Chess records and won the International Grandmaster title at a time when there were only a few dozen grandmasters in the world. Indeed, the Yanofsky factor had a big impact on the strength of other players from Winnipeg and the area.

After 15 years of not sending an Olympiad Team, Canada sent a six player squad to Amsterdam for the 1954 Olympiad. As always, the team was anchored by Yanofsky. But Yanofsky wasn't the only Winnipeg player. He was joined by Nathan Divinsky, who played second reserve. Divinsky only saw action in one game, which he drew, but he would go on to represent Canada at the Havana Olympiad in 1966, where the team drew more heavily on him, and he scored 4.5/8

Divinsky has had a colourful life. He became a professor at the University of British Columbia and was married to a future Canadian Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, from 1972 to 1983. In addition to hosting several TV shows on chess, he co-edited *Canadian Chess Chat*



Cumulus clouds and a clear blue sky over Canada's "Gateway to the West."

and wrote three chess books, the *Batsford Chess Encyclopedia*, *Life Maps of the Great Chess Masters*, and, along with Ray Keene, *Warriors of the Mind*. Divinsky served as President of the Chess Federation of Canada, and on several occasions as Canada's FIDE representative, a post he currently occupies.

In 1958, Winnipeg hosted the Canadian Open. In a small but strong field, the surprise winner was Vancouver mathematics professor Elod Macskasy, who scored an impressive 9/10 to take outright first over the pre-tournament favourite, Larry Evans. Macskasy, who immigrated to Canada following the 1956 Hungarian revolution, would later play an important role in the development of a young Duncan Suttles.

The next major event in Winnipeg was the 1963 Canadian Championship. The event represented the arrival of a new generation of Canadian masters as Duncan Suttles, Denis Allan, Zvonko Vranesic and Andrew Kalotay attempted to halt Yanofsky's domination of the title. But Yanofsky was too strong, and walked away with his seventh championship.

Too busy to play in both the Interzonal and Olympiad, Yanofsky ceded his 1964 Interzonal spot to Vranesic and

chose to play in the Tel Aviv Olympiad instead. Playing Board 1 for Canada, Yanofsky scored an impressive 10/16 against strong opposition, leading Canada to a fine 12th place finish. With the result, Yanofsky notched his final GM norm and became the first Grandmaster in the British Commonwealth. One year later, Yanofsky notched yet another Canadian championship, his eighth.

Canada's centennial year was 1967, and Winnipeg took the initiative to host Canada's first ever super Grandmaster event. Yanofsky was a key organizer of the event and received able assistance from John Prentice, Maitland Steinkopf, I.J. Dreman, John MacDonald and tournament director Jack Woodbury.

The tournament was filled with glittering names including Boris Spassky, who was arguably the strongest player in the world at the time. In the end, the great Dane, Bent Larsen, tied with Klaus Darga of Germany for first. Yanofsky wound up in ninth place, but was awarded the brilliancy prize for his impressive win over nine-time Hungarian Champion Laszlo Szabo.

In 1968 another Winnipeg player, Mark Schulman joined Yanofsky on the Olympiad team which participated in

Lugano. Playing second reserve, Schulman scored a respectable 4/8. His best game was a wild victory over German GM Hans-Joachim Hecht.

In 1974 Winnipeg hosted the Pan American Championship. Early in the post-Fischer era, Walter Browne was North America's most successful player, and he dominated the event with an impressive 13.5/15. Second was taken by Raul Sanguinetti of Argentina with 12. Winnipeg's own Irwin Lipnowski scored 9.5/15.

Our 1976 Olympiad team again featured two Winnipeggers. This time Irwin Lipnowski joined Abe Yanofsky at the Haifa Olympiad, where Canada had its best ever result, finishing 8th. Lipnowski, who is currently a professor of Economics at the University of Manitoba, scored a respectable 50% at the Olympiad.

Yanofsky played his last Olympiad at La Valletta, 1980, where Canada played superbly to finish 9th. He set a Canadian record which still stands: 141 Olympiad games played over a span of 41 years. This may be one of the untouchable Canadian sports records. Moreover, he was honoured with the Order of Canada and with the Queen's Counsel in recognition of his achievements as a lawyer.

In those years, Winnipeg boasted many strong players. There were nearly a dozen players who achieved ratings 2300 or above, including Abe Yanofsky, Irwin Lipnowski, Fletcher Baragar, John Burstow, Aaron Kapstan, Dale Kirton and young talents Rehan Huda and Kevin Gentes.

Dale Kirton became active in chess organization. He has served as CFC president and as captain of the mens Olympiad team. He was instrumental in Winnipeg hosting both the 1986 Canadian Open and Canadian Zonal Championship.

The 1986 Zonal was notable for Abe Yanofsky, who was attempting to break the tie between him and Montreal's Maurice Fox as eight-time Canadian Champions. But at 61 repeating was no small feat, particularly with Kevin Spraggett and Igor Ivanov in their prime. Spraggett and Ivanov were relentless and wound up tied first with 11/15. Since Canada was hosting the Candidates Matches in 1988, Ivanov and Spraggett



Boris Spassky set to battle Abe Yanofsky ,Winnipeg 1967

photo: Winnipeg Tribune

had a playoff match for the spot. The match wound up tied and Spraggett was later awarded the spot.

In spite of his age, Yanofsky tied third with fellow Winnipegger Fletcher Baragar. Being near the end of his career, Yanofsky ceded his spot in the Zagreb Interzonal to Baragar. Hamilton and Allan tied fifth and were to have played off for a spot in the Budapest Interzonal but, busy organizing the World Chess Festival, Hamilton allowed Allan to go.

The accompanying Canadian Open featured the participation of several strong grandmasters including Artur Yusupov, one of the world's best. To the

delight of local fans, home town kid Kevin Gentes beat Yusupov in a much celebrated Round 2 game. Yusupov pulled himself together and rattled off an impressive 7.5/8 to wind up tied first with daring Soviet Grandmaster Kupreichik.

Winnipeg again hosted Canadian Opens in 1994 and 1997. The star of the 1994 event was Ukrainian Grandmaster Vladimir Tukmakov, who stole the show with an impressive 9/10. More than two decades earlier Tukmakov had been a star student of our own Roman Pelts. British Grandmaster Julian Hodgson also had a strong event, finishing alone in second with 8/10. There must

Winnipeg 1967

Bent Larsen (Denmark)	x	0	=	=	1	=	1	1	=	1	6
Klaus Darga (West Germany)	1	x	=	=	=	=	=	=	1	1	6
Paul Keres (USSR)	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	x	=	=	=	=	=	1	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Boris Spassky (USSR)	=	=	=	x	=	=	=	=	1	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Pal Benko (USA)	0	=	=	=	x	=	=	1	=	1	5
Laszlo Szabo (Hungary)	=	=	=	=	=	x	=	=	0	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Florian Gheorghiu (Romania)	0	=	=	=	=	=	x	=	=	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Alex. Matanovic (Yugoslavia)	0	=	=	=	0	=	=	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5
D. A. Yanofsky (Canada)	=	0	0	0	=	1	=	=	x	=	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Shimon Kagan (Israel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=	0	$\frac{1}{2}$

have been something about Winnipeg that brought out the best in Hodgson. He returned for the 1997 event and stole the show, winning first outright with 8.5/10. Canada's top player, Kevin Spraggett, was alone in second with 8.0.

Following Yanofsky's death in

2000, a Memorial tournament has been held annually in Winnipeg, to mark his enormous and wide-ranging contributions to Canadian chess. The CFC published a new edition of his best games and life in chess: *Chess The Hard Way*. If you consider yourself a true Canadian chess play-

er, you should own a copy of this great book!

Many thanks for research assistance: Cecil Rosner, David Cohen, Jonathan Berry, Irwin Lipnowski, Lawrence Day.

** Brilliancy Prize Game **

Szabo – Yanofsky [E70]

Winnipeg (4), 1967

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

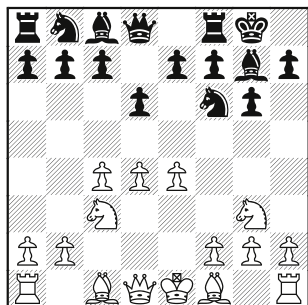
1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♗g7

The King's Indian—a great opening to fight for the initiative as Black.

4. e4 d6 5. ♖ge2

Nowadays, a rare system to see. In the 1960s, when theory was not as deep, especially in the King's Indian, this move was considered one of the best.

5... 0-0 6. ♘g3



The knight on g3 might support h2–4–5 or f2–4–5, or even make the ...f5 plan harder for Black.

6... e5

Black decides to stay in the King's Indian. After 6... c5 7. d5 e6 8. ♗e2 ed5 9. cd5 the game would transpose to a variation of the Modern Benoni.

7. d5 c6

A common plan, opening the queen-side.

8. ♗e2 cd5 9. cd5 ♗bd7

Black is not in a hurry. (After 9... ♗e8, Black could already be threatening ...h5 or ...f5.)

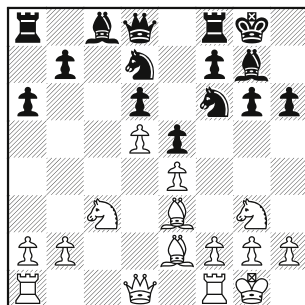
10. ♗g5!?

White pins the f6 knight, making the ...♗e8 plan impossible. And now White threatens to gain control of the h6 square by 11. ♖d2, practically forcing Black's response.

10... h6 11. ♗e3 a6

To gain space on the queen-side. Now 11... ♗e8?! was not as good: 12. ♖d2! h5 13. h4±.

12. 0-0



12... b5!?

Black follows his plan...White will soon have a great attack against Black's extended queen-side, but Black will counterattack on the king-side.

13. b4!

Fixing Black's pawns.

13... ♗b6!

This bad knight will be exchanged with White's great ♗/c3.

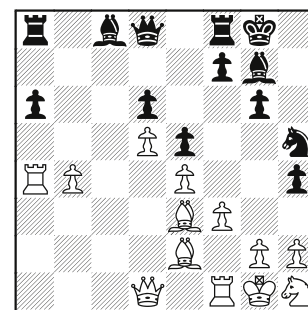
14. a4 ♗a4 15. ♗a4 ba4 16. ♖a4 h5!

Making the weakness of the ♗/g3 obvious.

17. f3

Probably, the right decision. After 17. ♗g5!? White would not be able to blockade the h4 square for long: 17... ♖d7 18. b5 ♗h7 19. ♗e3 h4!

17... h4 18. ♗h1 ♗h5!



Black sacrifices a pawn for initiative.

19. b5!?

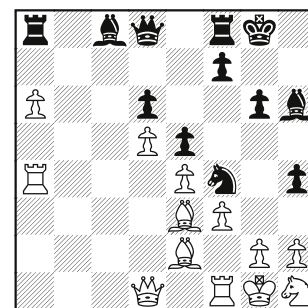
If White knew what initiative Black will have for the pawn, he would be more careful. White has better chances after 19. ♗f2 ♗f4 20. ♗h1 ♖g5 (20... ♗e2 21. ♖e2 ♖b8 22. ♖c1±) 21. ♗f4 ef4 22. ♖d2!

19... ♗f4 20. ba6

It was still not late to return to the right path: 20. ♗f4 ef4 21. ♗f2, but now Black has more options. For example: 21... h3 (21... a5!?) 22. gh3 a5 23. ♖d2 ♗e5 with good compensation for the pawn.

20... ♗h6!

After this strong move, Black forces the exchange of White's dark-square bishop without breaking his pawn structure.



21. ♗f2 ♗h3! 22. ♗h3 ♗e3 23. ♗h1!?

After this mistake, White will be on the defensive for the rest of the game. Clearly better is 23. ♖f2, because White keeps his pawns on the king-side alive. For example: 23... h3 24. g3 f5 25. ef5 gf5 26. ♔h1 f4 27. ♕e4 ♕f5 with mutual chances.

23... ♕h3 24. gh3 ♖d7

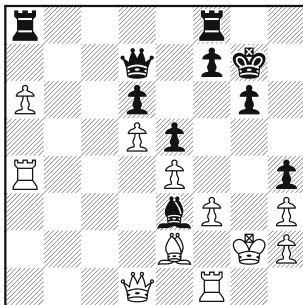
Immediately pointing at White's big weakness.

25. ♔g2

The king will not have a great life on the second rank, beside the critical f2 square.

25... ♔g7

A quiet move, with a deadly threat.



Black wants to get his rook to g5 (...♖h8-h5-g5).

26. ♖b4!

White has to create threats to hold Black from executing his plan.

26... ♖ab8

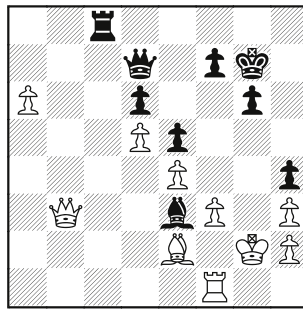
Black is forced to defend against ♖b7.

27. ♖b3 ♖b4 28. ♖b4 ♖c8

Now that one pair of rooks is off the board, the second rank will be even harder to defend. Black is threatening ...♖c2.

29. ♖b3

Here 29. ♖b7 did not solve the problems, Black avoids trading queens with 29... ♖d8.



29... ♖a7

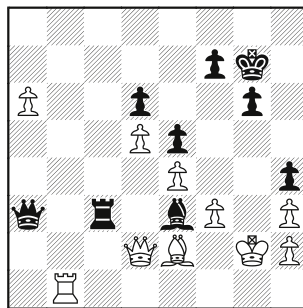
It is not easy to find a plan to further improve the position of the pieces, so Black is manoeuvring to find the right moment for the attack.

30. ♖b1 ♕d4 31. ♖d1 ♖c5 32. ♔h1 ♖a3!

Here the queen cannot be attacked by White's pieces. White is close to being in a zugzwang.

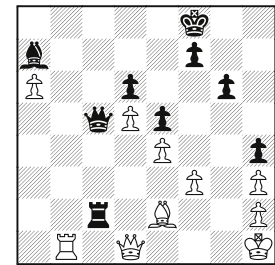
33. ♖d2 ♖c3 34. ♔g2 ♕c3!

Black has reached the best position possible.



35. ♖b2?!

White is tired of defending and makes an active move, threatening to exchange queens. But it turns out to be a mistake. The right move was 35. ♖d1, after which Black has to work hard to get the full point. One possible plan is to try to get hold of the second rank with both heavy pieces. Here is a possible continuation: 35... ♕a7 36. ♔h1 (White is unable to do anything to prevent Black's activity) 36... ♖c5 37. ♖d2 ♖c2 38. ♖d1 ♔f8



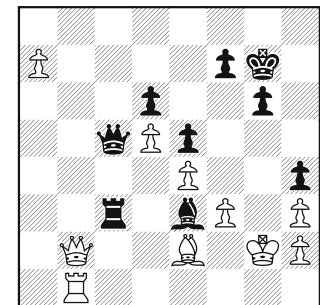
Analysis

39. ♖a1 (39. ♖d3 ♖a2! 40. ♖f1 (40. ♖d1 ♖f2+) 40... ♖b4! 41. ♔g2 ♖d2+) 39... ♖c3 40. ♖b1 ♖d2 41. ♖f1 ♖a2 42. ♖e1 ♖d2 (putting White near zugzwang, only White's king can move) 43. ♔g2 ♕c5! (43... ♖a6 would not be as good: 44. ♖d1! ♖g5 45. ♔h1 ♖a2 46. ♖a1 trading the rooks.) 44. ♔h1 ♕c3 45. ♔g2 ♖a6, so Black wins a pawn. The rest should be simple... 46. ♔h1 ♖a2 47. ♔g2 ♕d4 48. ♔h1 ♖c2 and White has no defense against Black's next move, ...♕c3!, winning a piece.

35... ♖c5

The road to d1 of White's queen is cut. Black enters the second rank with victory.

36. a7



Offering Black a pawn, which he has no intention of taking.

36... ♖c2! 37. a8 ♖ ♖b2 38. ♖e1

Or 38. ♖b2 ♖c1 with mate on g1.

38... ♕g1! 39. ♔h1 ♖f2

A great game by Yanofsky!



Secret Weapons

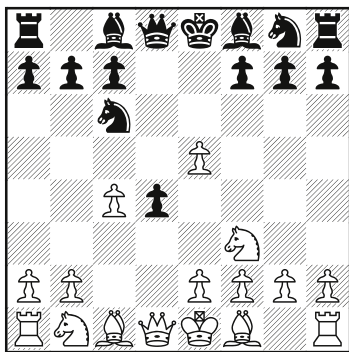
by Canadian Champion Igor Zugic

The Albin Countergambit

In this issue we will take a look at a provocative defense for Black against 1. d4: the Albin Countergambit. The opening moves are: 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5!?. It was first used by Cavolotti against Salvioli in Milan, Italy in 1881. The opening gained its name and notoriety when it was used by Adolf Albin against Emanuel Lasker in New York in 1893.

The opening is much better than its reputation. It offers an interesting struggle from very early on. A lot of strong players have tried it at one time or another: Alekhine, Lasker, Marshall, Tartakover, Spielmann, Euwe, Keres. From the new generation, Super-GM Alexander Morozevich is the opening's most avid supporter. He has tremendous results with it against very strong competition. GMs Nakamura and Kasidzhanov have also played it with success.

The main position arises after 3. de5 d4 4. f3 c6.



The key ideas in the position are:

1) Often Black will castle queenside and White kingside leading to mutual attacks.

2) The d4-pawn is cramping White's position. In many cases, a ...d3 break-

through will be decisive.

3) White often fianchettoes a bishop on g2. Black should try to exchange this bishop and weaken White's king by ...e6 or ...g4, ...d7 and ...h3.

4) The e5-pawn is a target. There are two distinct strategies for Black:

a. go after the e5-pawn with c6, d6e7-g6. White often gives the pawn back for the initiative.

b. play ...f6, making it a true gambit. In this case Black castles kingside and seeks compensation in quick development and the open e- and f-files.

Unusual 3rd Moves for White

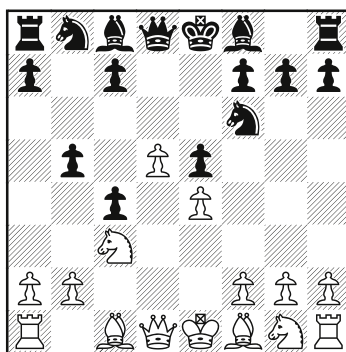
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| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. c4 | e5 |

Clearly 3. de5 is the best and the most common move. The alternatives are:

3. e3 ed4 4. ed4= transposes into French Exchange;

3. cd5 d5 4. f3 ed4 5. c3 b4 6. d4 d4 7. d4= is just equal;

3. c3 dc4 4. d5 f6 5. e4 b5!∞ with a very interesting and dynamic position.



Spassky's 4. e4

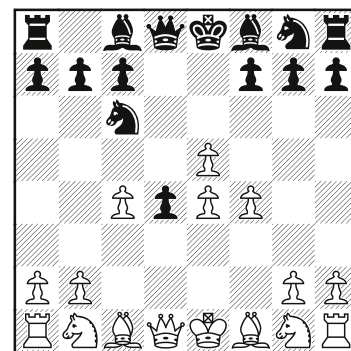
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| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. c4 | e5 |
| 3. de5 | d4 |
| 4. e4!? | |

Spassky's move. It can be very dangerous for Black. White wants to create a strong pawn army on the kingside and push Black off the board there. On the other hand, 4. e3? is a big mistake. It falls into a Lasker trap: 4... b4 5. d2 de3 6. b4 ef2 7. e2 fg1! 8. e1 (8. g1?? g4) 8... h4+.

- | | |
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| 4. ... | c6 |
|--------|----|

Not 4... de3? 5. d8 d8 6. e3+.

- | |
|-------|
| 5. f4 |
|-------|



- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 5. ... | g5! |
|--------|-----|

There are a number of moves here, but I feel this one is the strongest:

5... e6 or 5... h6 (with idea ...g4-e3) leaves White a bit better;

5... e5? has occurred a few times, but Black does not have enough for the piece after 6. fe5 h4 7. e2 (7. d2 is also good) 7... e6 8. d3± with f3 to follow;

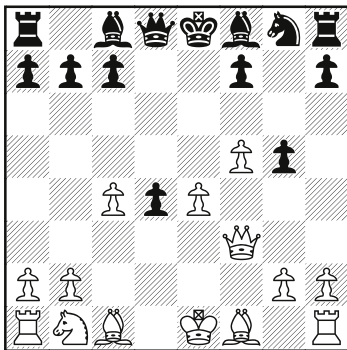
5... f6!? is very interesting. Black gets a very strong initiative for a pawn. 6. ef6 f6 7. d3 g4 8. a3 a5

The game Tarrasch–Caro, Vienna, 1898(!) continued 9. ♖e2 ♖c5! 10. ♖g4 ♖h4 11. g3 ♖g4 12. ♖g4 ♖g4 13. b3 d3! 14. ♖b2 ♖d4 15. ♖c3 0-0-0 16. ♖d2 ♖he8 and Black had more than enough for a pawn.

6. f5

If 6. fg5 then White's pawns on e4, e5 and g5 are all weak. Black has a number of promising continuations: 6... ♖b4 (or 6... ♖e6 with the idea of ♖d7, 0-0-0, ♖ge7–g6, ♖g7 or ♖c5—Black gets a very nice game; or 6... ♖ge7 7. ♖f3 ♖g6∞) 7. ♖d2 ♖g5.

6. ... ♖e5
7. ♖f3 ♖f3
8. ♖f3



and now after either ...♖g7, ...♖d6, ...♖b4+, ...♖d7, or ...h5 the position is very unclear, but Black has achieved his opening goal in creating a dynamic, interesting, position.

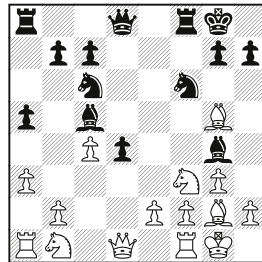
Main Variation: 5. g3

1. d4 d5
2. c4 e5
3. de5 d4
4. ♖f3 ♖c6
5. g3 ♖e6

Gaining time by attacking the c4–pawn. However, there are good alternatives:

Morozovich prefers 5... ♖ge7, with which Black looks to regain the pawn on e5. A number of times, play has proceeded with 6. ♖g2 ♖g6 7. ♖g5 ♖d7 8. e6 fe6 Black has no problems after 9. 0-0 e5 10. ♖bd2 h6 11. ♖h4 as now either ...♖e7 or ...♖f7 give Black a good position.

Also interesting is 5... ♖g4 6. ♖g2 (6. ♖bd2 ♖d7 [6... ♖e7!?] 7. h3 [7. ♖g2 transposes to 5. ♖bd2 lines] 7... ♖f5 8. a3 a5 9. b3 ♖c5∞ and due to better development and more space Black has full compensation) 6... f6!? (6... ♖d7? is fine in ♖bd2 variations, but it is the wrong plan in this position. White is much better after 7. 0-0 0-0-0 8. ♖b3! ♖ge7 [8... ♖h3? 9. e6! ♖e6 (9... ♖e6 10. ♖g5) 10. ♖e5+–] 9. ♖d1±) 7. ef6 ♖f6 8. 0-0 ♖c5 9. a3 a5 10. ♖g5 0-0∞



Analysis

Again Black has full compensation and a very pleasant position to play. Furthermore, he can use the e– and f–files to exert more pressure on White's position. Notice how the d4–pawn is again hindering White's position. White lacks space and a good plan.

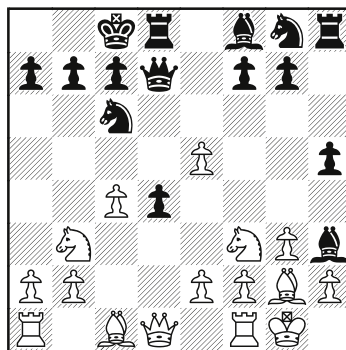
6. ♖bd2 ♖d7
7. ♖g2 ♖h3

Once the light squared bishop is removed, White's kingside is weakened and Black can whip up an attack.

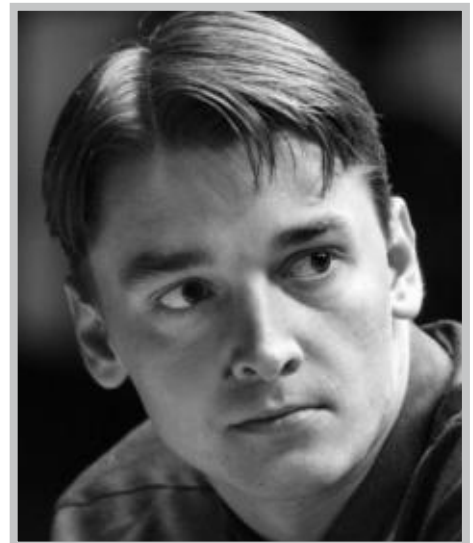
8. 0-0 0-0-0

Or 8... h5!∞.

9. ♖b3 h5



An unclear position with chances for both sides, exactly what Black was aiming for when choosing the Albin Countergambit!



Super GM Alexander Morozovich:
the leading modern
Albin Countergambiteer

photo: www.chessbase.com

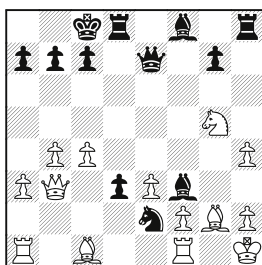
Main Variation: 5. Nbd2

1. d4 d5
2. c4 e5
3. de5 d4
4. ♖f3 ♖c6
5. ♖bd2 ♖ge7

Black has a number of good alternatives.

A) 5... ♖g4 6. g3 (6. ♖b3 is very risky for White 6... ♖d7 7. ♖b7 ♖b8 8. ♖a6 ♖b4 9. ♖a7 ♖d8 10. ♖d1 d3∞) 6... ♖d7 (6... f6!? 7. ef6 ♖f6 8. ♖g2 ♖d7 9. a3 a5 with compensation.) 7. ♖g2 ♖h3 8. 0-0 transposes into the 5. g3 variation. Black has a good position after, for example 8... ♖g2 9. ♖g2 0-0-0 10. ♖b3 h5∞;

B) 5... f6!? 6. ef6 ♖f6 and Black has full compensation. Black has the open lines and can quickly develop his pieces. Also the pawn on d4 is a thorn for White, it is cramping White's position. Here is a beautiful example of how quickly Black can seize and develop the initiative. 7. a3 ♖g4 8. g3 ♖e7 (8... ♖d7 is also good. With 8... ♖e7, Black is planning to play a quick ...d3.) 9. ♖g2 d3! 10. e3 ♖d4 11. 0-0 ♖e2 12. ♖h1 0-0-0 13. b4 h5 14. ♖b3 h4 15. gh4 ♖e4 16. ♖e4 ♖f3 17. ♖g5



Analysis

17... ♖g5! 18. hg5 ♜h2 19. ♔h2 ♕d6 20. ♔h1 ♜h8 0-1, Lignell-Niemala 1941.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 6. ♖b3 | ♗f5 |
| 7. a3 | ♕e7 |
| 8. g3 | a5 |
| 9. ♖d3 | a4 |
| 10. ♖bd2 | ♕e6! |

Morozevich played 10... h5? in a game against Sokolov, but after 11. ♕h3 g6 12. ♗e4 he was worse, although he managed to come out on top after an interesting struggle. 12... h4 13. ♕f4 hg3 14. hg3 ♗g7 15. ♕g2 ♜h1 16. ♕h1 ♕f5 17. ♗fg5 ♗a5 18. ♖f3 ♗e6 19. ♗h7 ♕e4 20. ♖e4 c6 21. e3 ♗b3 22. ♞d1 ♖a5 23. ♔e2 ♗ec5 24. ♖g2 ♖a6 25. ♔f1 ♖c4 26. ♔g1 ♖c2 27. ♖f3 d3 28. ♕g5 ♗e4 29. ♕e7 ♗f2 30. ♖f2 ♖d1 31. ♔g2 ♖c2 32. ♕d6 0-0-0 33. ♔g1 ♖f2 34. ♔f2 ♜h8 0-1, Sokolov-Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2005.

11. ♕g2

Or 11. ♕h3 ♖d7.

11. ... ♖d7∞

with good compensation for the pawn.

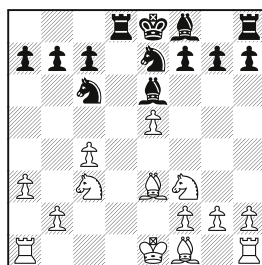
Main Variation: 5. a3

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. c4 | e5 |
| 3. de5 | d4 |
| 4. ♗f3 | ♗c6 |
| 5. a3 | |

In this variation White does not fianchetto his bishop. Instead White is trying to gain space on the queenside and undermine the d4-pawn early on.

5. ... ♗g7!

This fighting move is preferred by Morozevich. An alternative is 5... ♕e6?! but after 6. e3! de3 7. ♖d8 ♞d8 8. ♕e3 ♗ge7 9. ♗c3±

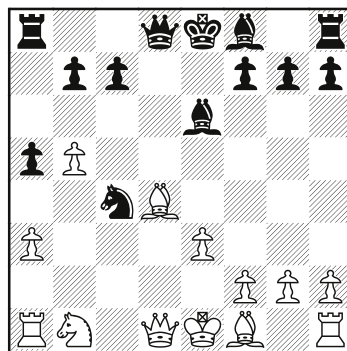


Analysis

and White is a bit better. Fighting for equality in a queenless middlegame is not in the spirit of the opening. Here is an example of how to defend with Black. 9... ♗g6 10. ♗b5 ♞d7 11. ♗bd4 ♗ge5 12. ♗e5 ♗e5 13. ♗e6 fe6 14. ♕e2 ♗d3 15. ♕d3 ♞d3 16. ♔e2 ♞d8 17. ♞hd1 ♕e7 18. b4 a6 19. ♕f4 ♕d6 20. ♕g5 ♕e7 21. ♞d8 ♕d8 22. ♕d8 ♔d8 23. ♞d1 ♔e7 24. ♔e3 ♞f8 25. f4 e5 1/2-1/2 Farago-Mestel, Belgrade 1982.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 6. b4 | ♗g6 |
| 7. ♕b2 | a5! |
| 8. b5 | ♗ce5 |
| 9. ♗e5 | ♗e5 |
| 10. e3 | ♕e6 |
| 11. ♕d4 | ♗c4∞ |

Forcing White to weaken his queenside.



The position is about equal, but there are chances for both sides. The rapid game Topalov-Morozevich, Monte Carlo, 2005, continued:

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 12. ♖c2 | ♗d6 |
| 13. ♕d3 | ♖g5! |
| 14. f4 | ♖h4 |
| 15. g3 | ♖h5? |
| 16. ♗c3 | ♗f5? |

Better is 15... ♖h3 16. ♗c3 f5!∞.

Better is 16... a4! 17. 0-0 (17. ♗a4 ♗b5)

17... ♕b3 with an unclear position.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 17. 0-0 | 0-0-0 |
| 18. ♕a7! | ♖g4 |
| 19. ♗e4? | |

A mistake but it was very difficult to foresee Morozevich's beautiful piece sacrifice (19. ♗a4!+— with decisive attack wins for White).

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 19. ... | ♞d7 |
| 20. ♞fd1 | ♖f3 |
| 21. ♗g5 | ♗e3 |
| 22. ♗f3 | ♗c2 |
| 23. ♕c2 | b6± |

Trapping the bishop on a7.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 24. ♗e5 | ♞d1 |
| 25. ♞d1 | ♕a3 |
| 26. f5 | ♕a2 |
| 27. ♞a1 | ♕c5 |
| 28. ♔f1 | ♞e8 |
| 29. ♞e1 | f6 |
| 30. ♗d3 | ♞e1 |
| 31. ♔e1 | ♕d6 |
| 32. ♗c1 | ♕d5 |
| 33. ♕b3 | ♕e4 |
| 34. ♕b6 | cb6 |
| 35. ♕e6 | ♔c7 |
| 36. ♔e2 | ♕e5 |
| 37. ♗d3 | ♔d6 |
| 38. ♔e3 | ♕d5 |
| 0-1 | |

Topalov-Morozevich, Monte Carlo 2005.

The Albin Countergambit is a very underrated defense. Most of the players playing White do not even take the time to study it. As it was shown in this article, the opening offers very good counter-chances and interesting play from the second move already. All of this makes the Albin Countergambit a perfect secret weapon.

Recommended reading

There's a wealth of material on the Albin Countergambit at www.kenilworthchess.org.



The Scholastic Scene

by Hal Bond



2006 World Youth in Bat'umi Georgia

The 2006 WYCC was originally scheduled for India. Soon after the CYCC was awarded to Kitchener in 2004, India announced dates in early September, forcing the Kitchener team to abandon its plan and start over. In early 2005, troubles surfaced with the Indian Federation. The event moved to Sochi, a Russian resort town on the Black Sea, at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains. During the trip home from the 2005 World Chess Cup in Khanty Mansiysk, the failing health of the organizer in Sochi came to light in a discussion with FIDE VP Georgios Makropoulis and Treasurer David Jarrett. A possible return to Heraklion, Crete sounded great to me! But the tournament stayed on the east coast of the Black Sea, a little further south in Bat'umi, Georgia. The competition ran from October 18-29.

Home to some 140,000 residents, Bat'umi is a significant commercial port and capital of the Ajaria autonomous region in Georgia. Its warm climate, beaches and scenic countryside make the city a popular

health resort. Like the WYCC which it hosted, Bat'umi has known several "owners" in its history. Originally settled by the Greeks, it became part of the Ottoman empire during the 16th century. Bat'umi became Russian real estate following the Russo-Turkish war in 1878.

The year 2006 marked the inauguration of two new world championships—namely, the Under 8 boys and girls. These two divisions attracted another 83 boys and 47 girls. Despite this expansion, the attendance was down considerably from the lofty heights of Belfort, France in 2005, where a record 1108 players endured abysmal conditions in the summer heat. (Crete 2004 drew 987 players, including 28 from Canada.) Perhaps owing to reports of instability in the region, Bat'umi attracted only 795 players. Team Canada's shrinkage was even more pronounced. While 28 of

our youth stars tolerated Belfort to compete in every category, only 12 Canadian players made the trek to Georgia, and we were not represented in the U14 Girls or the U8 Girls competitions.

While India was hot-hot-hot, taking gold in 10 of the 12 events, Canada's results this year were mixed. Our 8 boys gathered 46 points of a possible 88, averaging 52%. Kitchener's Raja Panjwani led the way with 7.5—good for 7th place and an 11 round IM norm! Also notable was the result for Shiyam Thavandiran in the U14 Boys, who stood alone in first after 5 rounds. Shiyam's collapse in the final 2 rounds landed him in 10th place with 7/11. Our female contingent was not so fortunate. Miriam Roy's 5/11 was our top score.

Following are some of the exciting battles from this year's event.



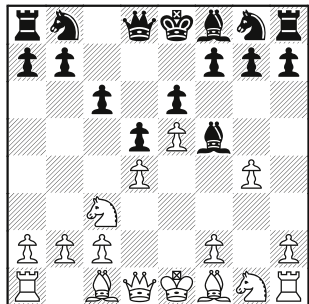
The promenade in sub-tropical Bat'umi, Georgia

Photo: www.flickr.com

**Panjwani – Paichadze [B12]
Wch U16 Batumi (3), 19.10.2006**

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 ♟f5 4. ♖c3
e6 5. g4



White goes for the main variation of the Caro–Kann Advance. In recent years, Black is having trouble equalizing here.

5... ♟g6 6. ♖ge2 f6

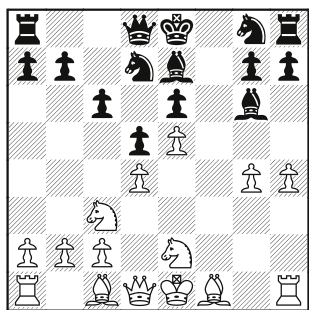
One of the possible moves. Black makes an escape square for the ♟/g6.

7. h4

White demonstrates his intention to attack on the king-side.

7... ♖d7 8. f4 fe5 9. fe5 ♟e7?!

After this move, blocking the e7–square, White gets an advantage and holds it for the rest of the game. The hemmed-in ♖/g8 will become a major reason for Black's problems.



10. g5! c5

Now or never: Black needs counterplay.

11. ♖f4 ♟b6 12. ♟b5!

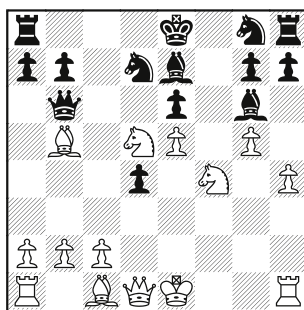
Forcing Black's response, and preparing to rip open the position...

12... cd4 13. ♖cd5!!



Canada's top performer, Raja Panjwani
nailed down his first IM norm in Bat'umi

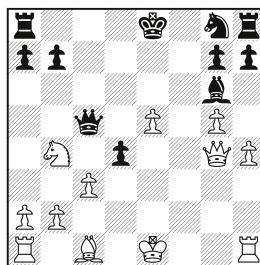
photo: MonRoi



Of course, it is not possible to calculate all the variations arising after this sacrifice. But intuition says that the sacrifice must be correct.

13... ed5 14. ♖d5 ♟c5

Losing. The only way to keep fighting was 14... ♟b4! 15. c3 ♟c5 16. ♟d7 ♖d7 17. ♟g4 ♖e8 18. ♖b4 with good attacking chances.



Analysis

15. c4!

Defending both pieces, and threatening the deadly b4!

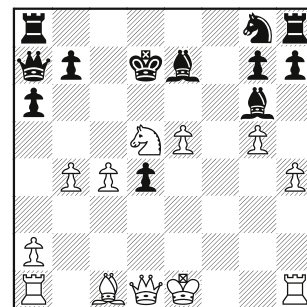
15... a6

The only move. Black makes space for the queen on a7.

16. b4 ♟a7

After 16... ♟c8 17. ♖b6 ab5 18. ♖c8 ♟b4 19. ♟d2 ♟d2 20. ♟d2 ♟c8 21. cb5 Black's position is lost, as he will never be able to find a safe place for his king.

17. ♟d7 ♖d7



18. c5!?

White is playing for domination. Instead, after 18. ♟b2! it is hard to find a good move for Black.

18... ♟d8?

Very greedy. Black keeps his extra piece, hoping for better times, and missing a great chance to complicate things: 18... ♟c5! 19. bc5 ♟c5. Then, to win, White must find some very strong moves: 20. ♟b3! ♖d8 21. 0-0! (21. ♟b7 ♟c8 and Black lives.) 21... ♟c8 22. ♟a3+.

19. ♟g4?!

Here 19. e6!! would be decisive, the main variation being 19... ♖e6 20. ♟g4 ♟f5 21. ♖f4 ♖e5 22. ♟e2 ♟e4 23. ♟c4 d3 24. ♟e6 ♖d4 25. ♟b2 ♖e3 26. ♖d5 ♖f3 27. ♟h3.

19... ♖e8 20. h5

There are many ways to win for White. All of Black's pieces are bad.

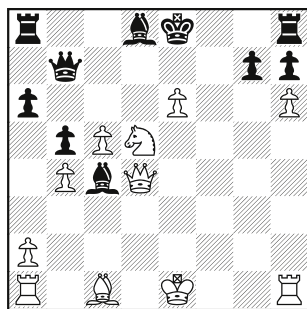
20... ♟d3 21. h6

Or 21. ♟d4 ♟b5 22. h6+.

21... b5 22. ♟d4 ♟c4 23. e6 ♖h6

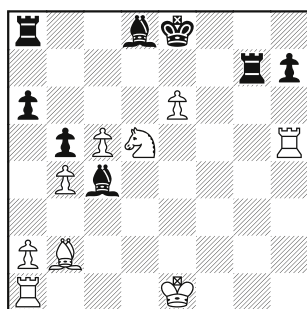
Black is forced to return the piece.

24. gh6 ♟b7

**25. hg7?!**

Time trouble? Better was 25. ♖g7 ♖g7 26. hg7 ♖g8 27. e7! ♔d5 28. ed8 ♖d8 29. ♖h7 ♔f7 30. ♔b2+.

25... ♖g8 26. ♖h5 ♖g7 27. ♖g7 ♖g7 28. ♔b2

**28... ♖g2?!**

Missing his last chance: 28... ♖g1! 29. ♔f2 ♖a1 30. ♔a1 ♔d5 31. ♖d5 a5 with great chances to save the game.

29. 0-0-0 ♔a2 30. e7! ♔e7 31. ♔c7 ♔f7 32. ♖h7 ♔g8 33. ♖e7 ♖f8 34. ♖h1! 1-0

Ter – Thavandiran [C04]
Wch U14 Batumi (5), 19.10.2006
[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♔d2 ♔c6!?

Provocative. Black blocks his own c-pawn, giving White good reasons to close the position with e5.

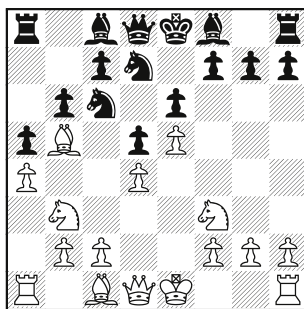
4. ♔gf3 ♔f6 5. e5

The only way to fight for an advantage. Not 5. ♔d3?! ♔b4!

5... ♔d7 6. ♔b3 a5!

Black has a long term plan of exchanging his ♔c8 for White's ♔f1 on a6. Also, he gains space on the queen-side.

7. a4 b6 8. ♔b5

**8... ♔cb8!?**

This kind of development is only possible in the French Defense...

9. 0-0

White, if he understood what Black is doing, would not be so calm. White should look for ways to prove Black's strategy is wrong. For example: 9. ♔g5 ♔e7 (9... h6? 10. ♔e6 fe6 11. ♖h5 ♔e7 12. ♔g5 hg5 13. ♖h8+→) 10. ♖h5 g6 11. ♖h6 ♔f8 12. ♖h3 with a great attack.

9... ♔e7

Now Black is safe.

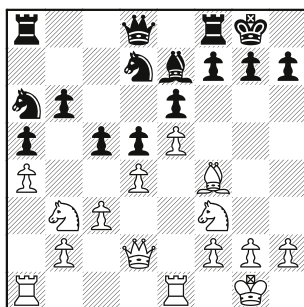
10. ♖e1

White keeps playing without a plan.

10... ♔a6 11. c3 c6!

Now Black has a comfortable position.

12. ♔a6 ♔a6 13. ♔f4 0-0 14. ♖d2 c5



Black starts his queen-side attack.

15. ♔g5

Only now does White realize he needs to find counterplay.

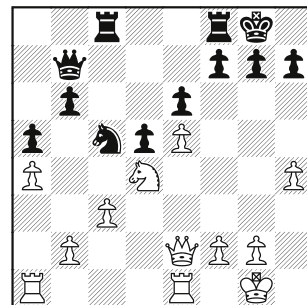
15... ♖c8 16. ♔e7 ♖e7 17. ♖e2 ♔db8!

Black clears space for his other pieces.

18. ♔bd2 ♖b7 19. h4

White's counterplay is a little late, but still not too late!

19... ♔c6 20. ♔b3 cd4 21. ♔bd4 ♔d4 22. ♔d4 ♔c5



After exchanges, it is clear that Black is having easier play.

23. h5 h6 24. ♖g4 ♖d7

Defending the e6 pawn, to prepare a possible ...f5 defense.

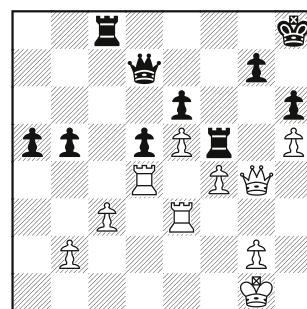
25. ♖e3 ♔h8 26. f3?

Now White loses all chances for counterplay. Better was. ♔b5! and then, to play for a win, Black must open the position: 26... f6! 27. ♖d1 fe5 28. ♖e5 ♖f7+.

26... ♔a4! 27. ♔e6 fe6 28. ♖a4 ♖f5

Black is better on both wings. White is forced to defend.

29. ♖d4 b5 30. f4



30... b4!

Black opens the position before White can coordinate his pieces.

31. ♖d1 ♖a7!

With the threat ...♖f4!

32. g3 bc3 33. bc3 ♖f7

The rook goes back to the queen-side, where it will be more effective.

34. ♔g2 ♖fc7 35. ♖b3 ♖c4

In an endgame, White will have little hope.

Canadians at the World Youth Chess Championships

Event	Name	Rating	Rank	R1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	Place
Boys U18	Jonathan Tayar	2214	37/54	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	5.0	37
Boys U18	David Wang	2206	38/54	½	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	½	0	½	4.5	40
Boys U16	Raja Panjwani	2223	28/64	½	1	1	0	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	7.5	7
Boys U16	Haonan Zhou	unr		1	0	0	½	0	½	1	0	1	1	½	5.5	32
Boys U14	Shiyam Thavandiranm	2264	7/83	1	1	½	1	1	1	0	½	1	0	0	7.0	10
Boys U12	Arthur Calugar	unr		0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	½	6.5	27
Boys U10	Richard Leu	unr		½	0	1	1	0	1	1	½	0	0	0	5.0	52
Boys U8	Steven Leu	unr		0	0	1	1	½	0	1	0	1	1	0	5.5	43
Girls U18	Angèle Laroque	unr		0	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	1.5	41
Girls U16	Gabrielle Nadeau	unr		0	0	1	0	1	0	½	0	½	1	0	4.0	47
Girls U12	Myriam Roy	unr		0	1	1	0	1	1	0	½	½	0	0	5.0	40
Girls U10	Regina-Veronica Kalaydina	unr		0	1	½	1	0	1	0	0	0	½	0	4.0	50

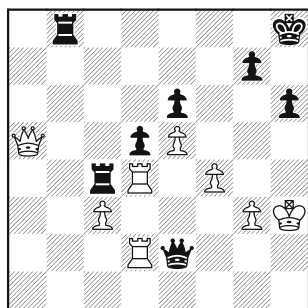
36. ♖ed3 ♗f7

Black decides to exchange his ♖/a5 pawn for White's ♖/h5. After this exchange, Black's king will be safer.

37. ♗a3 ♗h5 38. ♗a5 ♗e2

Going in the right direction...

39. ♖h3 ♖b8! 40. ♖d2

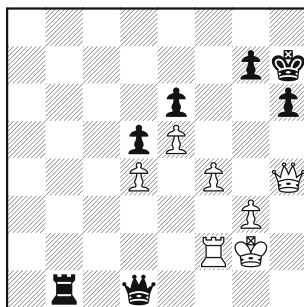


40... ♗h5?

Black misses the quick win: 40... ♗f1 41. ♖g4 (other moves are hardly better) h5 with a mating net. To win now, Black must demonstrate great technique, which he duly does.

41. ♖g2 ♖d4 42. cd4 ♖b3 43. ♖f2 ♖b1 44. ♖d8 ♖h7 45. ♗h4 ♖d1

Winning a pawn.



46. ♗h2 ♖d4 47. ♗h5 ♗e4 48. ♗f3 ♗e1 49. ♖h2 ♖b3!

The queen endgame will be easy to win.

50. ♖b3 ♗f2 51. ♖h3 ♗f1 52. ♖h2 ♗e2

Black makes a couple of checks to gain time on the clock.

53. ♖h3 ♗e4 54. ♖h2 ♗e2 55. ♖h3 h5 56. ♖b1 ♖h6 57. ♖b8 ♖g4 58. ♖h2 ♖h7 59. ♖d8 h4! 60. gh4

The pawn ending after 60. ♖h4 is lost: 60... ♖h4 61. gh4 ♖g6 62. ♖g3 ♖f5 63. ♖f3 g6 64. ♖g3 ♖e4 65. ♖g4 d4+.

60... ♖f4 61. ♖h3 ♗e5 62. ♖g4 d4 63. h5 ♗e4 64. ♖g3 ♗e5 65. ♖g4 ♖f5 66. ♖g3 d3 67. h6 ♖g6

A great positional game.

0-1

Tayar – Leon [B60]

Wch U18 Batumi (1), 19.10.2006

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

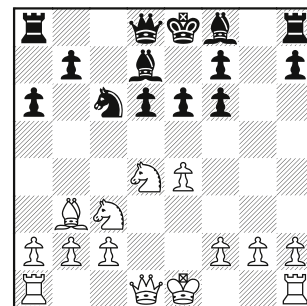
1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♖d4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♖g5 ♖c6

A rare move. The game transposes from a Najdorf to a Rauzer Sicilian.

7. ♖f6 gf6 8. ♖c4!?

White chooses to place his light square bishop on b3, to attack major squares in the centre—e6 and d5. Another plan is 8. ♖e2.

8... e6 9. ♖b3 ♖d7



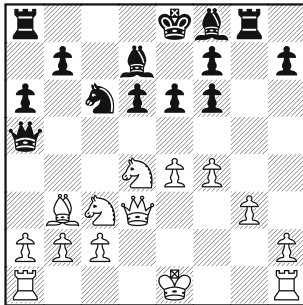
10. ♖d3!

This seems to be the best square for the queen. After ♖d2, Black would have ...♖h6 tricks.

10... ♖a5 11. f4

Locking the h6-c1 diagonal and taking away the e5 square from Black's knight.

11... ♜g8 12. g3



12... 0-0-0?!

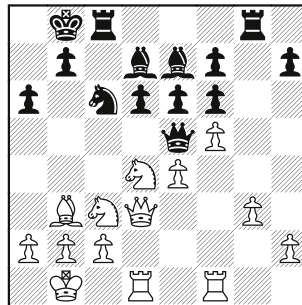
Leads to an inferior position. Black could equalize with 12... ♟d4! 13. ♜d4 ♜h5! preventing White's castle. Now White should probably go for 14. ♜d1 (14. 0-0?! ♜h3 15. ♜f2 f5! ♞; 14. ♜f6? ♜g3!-) 14... ♜d1 15. ♞d1=.

13. 0-0-0 ♜b8 14. ♜b1 ♞e7 15. ♜hf1 ♜c8?!

Black keeps ignoring White's f5 threat

(15... ♟d4 16. ♜d4 ♜c5 was necessary).

16. f5! ♜e5



17. ♟d5!!

Immediately winning. After exchanges in the centre, Black's queen will be trapped.

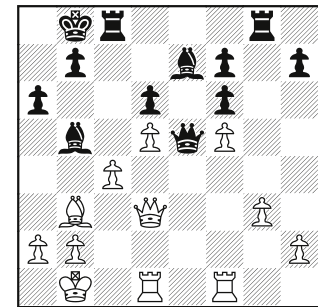
17... ed5

Not 17... ♜d4? 18. ♜d4 ♟d4 19. ♟e7+- and not 17... ♜ge8? 18. ♟f3+-.

18. ♟c6

Maybe, Black missed this in-between move.

18... ♞c6 19. ed5 ♞b5 20. c4



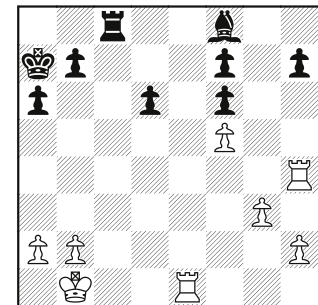
20... ♜g4?

Now Black loses all chances to save the game. Necessary was 20... ♞d7! 21. ♞de1 ♞f5! 22. ♜f5 ♜f5 23. ♜f5 ♞d8 24. ♜h5+- and Black is lost but, since it is an opposite bishop ending, there will always be chances for a draw.

21. ♜fe1 ♜gc4 22. ♞c4 ♞c4 23. ♜f3!

Black is forced to give up material.

23... ♞d5 24. ♜d5 ♜d5 25. ♞d5 ♞f8 26. ♞d4 ♜a7 27. ♜h4



To win this ending, White should swap one rook and use the other to create weaknesses.

27... h6 28. ♜g4

Entering on the open file.

28... ♞d8 29. ♜g8 d5 30. ♜c2 ♜b6 31. ♜d3 ♜c5 32. ♜h8 b5 33. ♜h7 ♞d6 34. ♜f7

Now Black is hopeless.

34... ♞e5 35. ♜e2 ♜g8 36. ♜h7 ♜g5 37. ♜f2 h5 38. ♜h6 ♜b4 39. ♜g6 ♜g4 40. ♜g4 hg4 41. ♜e2 ♜c5 42. ♜c2 ♜b4 43. b3 ♜a3 44. ♜c6 ♜a2 45. ♜c2 a5 46. ♜c5 a4 47. ♜b5 1-0

A perfect game by Jonathan!



Arthur Calugar recovered from a slow start to finish with 6.5/11

photo: MonRoi

The Kings of Chess

by Larry Parr

José Raul Capablanca

b. 1888 - d. 1942

World champion: 1921 to 1927

In the words of a chess-playing classmate, Cuban-born José Capablanca never “learnt to learn.” There was no necessity for him to do so, given his talent; but this failing also circumscribed the limits of his achievements, which were confined within that vast natural genius that was never extended by unremitting intellectual labour. One curious result is that Capablanca is the only modern world champion who is more remembered for what he was than what he did. Sixty years after Capa’s death from a stroke at the Manhattan Chess Club, his figuredom predominates. His epochal gift for chess, his fit form hopping from a horse after a bracing ride at Havana’s tony Union Club, his hundreds of tuxedoed, diamond-dusted nights on luxury liners spent playing the game of life (“But he was such a caballero!” trilled Capa’s second wife, a willowy Russian strawberry blonde named Olga Chagodaev, whose face with its high cheekbones resembled that of a very young, semi-Oriental Mae West)—these are the snapshots that come to mind rather than any specific chess results. Capa’s friends were also under the spell of his figuredom. Wrote Bernard Epstein, Capa’s roommate at Columbia University: “He was of medium height, lean, but no padding needed for his shoulders. And such pride in the posture of his head! You would know no one could dingle-dangle that man. I can visualize him so

clearly, with his dark hair and large gray-green eyes. Believe me, when he took a stroll, in his black derby hat and carrying a cane, no handsomer young gentleman ever graced Fifth Avenue.”

One account from young “Capie” has him deducing the rules and object of chess at age four after observing a game won by his army-officer father against a friend. He supposedly told his father that the latter had moved a knight incorrectly. Father and son then played their first game, which was won by Joselito. Mikhail Botvinnik, employing some fairly stratospheric standards, called Capablanca the only chess genius he had ever known. On another occasion, he wrote, “I consider Capablanca as the greatest talent of all time.” Alexander Alekhine handsomely, perhaps also ruefully, acknowledged that in no other player had he ever seen such “flabbergasting quickness of chess comprehension.”

The salient characteristic of Capablanca’s chess results, more pronounced even than his numerous first prizes in tournaments, was the near absence of defeat. He made fewer moves of the kind that lose chess games than any other grandmaster in history. By one reckoning, the great Cuban’s loss percentage is given as 5.7 percent based on a career tournament-match record of +318 -34 =251. However, if one includes in Capa’s official record his games from club matches (+9 =1), exhibition games (+37 =4) and consultation games (+21 =9) against such opponents as Efim Bogolyubov, Max Euwe, Aron Nimzovich et al., then the career total statistics read +385 -34 =265. Of 684 games, his 34 losses amount to 4.97 percent. Either figure, 5.7 percent or 4.97 percent, represents the lowest percentage of losses achieved by any player in modern competition. In 158 games played after he lost to Siegbert Tarrasch at St. Petersburg 1914 through New York 1927, Capablanca suffered but four de-



**José Paul Capablanca
and his second wife Olga Chagodaev**

feats. He was regularly outplayed in only one of these games (Richard Reti – Capablanca, New York 1924)—a loss that ended an unbeaten streak of 63 games. Among international-level masters, only Alekhine won more than two games against the Cuban, while in 44 games against Bogolyubov, Nimzovich, Ossip Bernstein, Reuben Fine, Geza Maroczy, and Milan Vidmar, he never lost. He had a minus score against only one great master (Paul Keres: -1 =5).

Capablanca burst on the world chess scene in 1909 as an unknown who utterly demolished Frank Marshall, +8 -1 =14, in a stakes match. Capa’s only previous competitive experience was in Cuba (the 1902 Championship and a match with Corzo). Following the Marshall match, Capablanca played in two local New York tournaments. At the insistence of Marshall, Capa was invited to San Sebastian 1911 where he won a great tournament on his first try, an honour that he shares only with Harry Nelson Pillsbury. His next international event was St. Petersburg 1914 where he finished a half point behind the then world champion, Emanuel Lasker. In 1919 he defeated Boris Kostic five-zip in a match and took



Capablanca and his father



Capablanca and his father, 1909

first at Hastings, +10 =1. The young Cuban's entire international career consisted of two matches (vs. Marshall and Kostic) and three tournaments (San Sebastian, St. Petersburg, Hastings) when he sat down to play Emanuel Lasker in Havana in 1921. Even so, Capa was the heavy favourite, and he won, +4 =10.

The new champion reached the pinnacle without ever having studied chess seriously. Nor, after winning the crown, did he tax himself with the game, competing in only four tournaments during his reign. He took first prizes at London 1922 and New York 1927, an elite event that he won by 2 ½ points ahead of Alekhine in second place. Typically, the Cuban conceded numerous short draws rather than pressing to win by a still larger margin. In 1927, to the universal astonishment of nearly everyone, Capablanca lost the title to Alekhine, +3 -6 =25. "Perhaps the chief reason for his defeat," Alekhine later wrote, "was the overestimation of his own powers...and his underestimation of mine." Reti had also observed that while Capablanca looked every inch a champion, it was Alekhine who was playing like one.

From 1928 to 1931, Capablanca played in 10 tournaments, winning seven first prizes, two clear seconds and a 2nd-3rd with Rudolf Spielmann at Carlsbad 1929, behind Nimzovich. He was trying (unsuccessfully) to arrange a rematch with Alekhine, staking his claim based on tournament successes. From mid-1931 to late 1934, Capa went into retirement after beating a rising young Max Euwe in 1931, +2 -0 =8. His return at Hastings 1934-35 was less than overwhelming, a fourth prize, followed by another fourth prize at Moscow 1935 behind Salo Flohr and Botvinnik (joint 1st) and 66-year-old Lasker, an undefeated third. But in 1936 Capablanca returned to form, winning a very strong double-round robin in Moscow, undefeated and a full point ahead of Botvinnik. Then, in the same year at Nottingham 1936, an unwell Capablanca nonetheless tied for Botvinnik for first, ahead of Euwe, Fine, Samuel Reshevsky, Alekhine, Flohr, Lasker and the like. At AVRO 1938, one of the strongest tournaments in chess history, he started well and then suffered a minor stroke. A final score of +2 -4 =8 was the single tournament failure of his career.

Along with Paul Morphy and Bobby Fischer, Capablanca possessed a lightning sight of the board. What an Alekhine or a Botvinnik thought about, Capa frequently intuited. His sublime sense of position meant eliminating bad possibilities without ever having to analyze them. Capa often looked at only one or two candidate moves while lesser grandmasters had to work through a half dozen possibilities. "The way he analyzed, understood the position," wrote Botvinnik, "in such things lay the enormous power of José Raul Capablanca." As for Capa's own view of his play: "I always play carefully and try to avoid unnecessary risks. I consider my method to be right as any superfluous 'daring' runs counter to the essential character of chess, which is not a gamble but a purely intellectual combat conducted in accordance with the exact rules of logic."

By all accounts, Capablanca remained supreme in lightning chess to the end. Reuben Fine, regarded by many as the outstanding speed player of the 1940s, recalls that Capablanca treated his opponents like children in fast games. The late Arthur Dake, a speed chess phenomenon of the 1930s who was easily besting Alekhine as early as the Prague Olympiad of 1931, recollected an evening when fresh from a 12-0 victory in a speed tournament that included the likes of Fine, Reshevsky, Al Horowitz, Arnold Denker and virtually every other top American master, he challenged Capablanca. Capa had just shown up, fresh from a diplomatic function, and faced down a cocky Reuben Fine, who had blurted out that fast chess was for "young men" but who would not play the Cuban for money even when offered odds. Dake wanted to play and expected Horowitz, his closest friend, to back him. Instead, Horowitz grabbed Dake's sleeve and said, "No one plays Capa at lightning chess. I won't back you."

Many observers have argued that Capablanca, like Steinitz before him, was a piece player. He eschewed tampering with his pawns except to facilitate development. What Boris Spassky once said of Fischer's chess at its peak—that the young American played in a "straight line"—was also true of Capablanca's. There was relatively little dissembling or tacking to and fro, and his games in their



Capablanca, master of Speed Chess.
Margate, 1935

elegant and seamless simplicity were frequently called Mozartian. Said Botvinnik in one interview, "Capablanca didn't make separate moves—he was creating a chess picture. Nobody could compare with him in this."

Capablanca made winning appear not only effortless but, even more tellingly, inevitable. A first case in point:

Bogolyubov – Capablanca [D05] New York International (9), 1924

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 d5 3. e3 e6 4. ♔d3 c5 5. b3 ♘c6 6. 0-0 ♔d6 7. ♔b2 0-0 8. ♘bd2 ♚e7 9. ♘e5 cd4 10. ed4



10... ♔a3 11. ♔a3 ♚a3 12. ♘df3 ♔d7 13. ♘c6 ♔c6 14. ♚d2 ♔ac8 15. c3 a6 16. ♘e5 ♔b5 17. f3 ♔d3 18. ♘d3 ♔c7 19. ♔ac1 ♔fc8 20. ♔c2 ♘e8 21. ♔fc1 ♘d6 22. ♘e5 ♚a5 23. a4 ♚b6 24. ♘d3 ♚b3 25. ♘c5 ♚b6 26. ♔b2 ♚a7 27. ♚e1 b6 28. ♘d3 ♔c4 29. a5 ba5 30. ♘c5 ♘b5 31. ♔e2 ♘d4 32. cd4 ♔8c5, White resigns. 0-1

Another of those “inevitable” Capablanca wins:

**Edgar Colle – Capablanca [A47]
Carlsbad Carlsbad, 1929**

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 b6 3. e3 ♙b7 4. ♘bd2 e6 5. ♙d3 c5 6. 0-0 ♘c6 7. c3 ♙e7 8. e4 cd4 9. ♘d4 0-0 10. ♙e2 ♘e5 11. ♙c2 ♙c8 12. f4 ♙a6 13. ♙d1 ♘c6 14. ♙f3 g6 15. ♘2b3 ♘d4 16. ♘d4 ♙b7 17. ♙e2 ♙c5 18. ♙h3 ♙c6 19. e5 ♘d5 20. ♙f2 ♙d4 21. cd4 ♙ac8 22. ♙d1 f6 23. ♙h4 ♙f7 24. ♙f3 ♙c4



25. ♙e3 ♘e3 26. ♙b7 ♘f5 27. ♙e1 ♙c7 28. ♙e4 ♙d4 29. ♘h1 fe5 30. ♙f5 ef5 31. fe5 ♙e7 32. ♙e3 ♙b2 33. e6 de6 34. ♙e6 ♘f7 **White resigns. 0-1**

Recommended Reading:

Edward Winter, *Capablanca* (McFarland, 1989), not so much a biography as an interesting collection of Capablanca's correspondence, articles, annotations, little-known games, etc.; Rogelio Caparros, *The Games of José Raul Capablanca* (Chess Digest, 2nd edition, 1994), containing 1,206 games, the largest such collection; Dale Brandreth and David Hooper, *The Unknown Capablanca* (R.H.M. Press, 1975), seldom published simultaneous and exhibition games and the most complete statistical record available of the Cuban's career; Harry Golombek, *Capablanca's Hundred Best Games of Chess* (G.. Bell & Sons, 1947), still the best annotated collection of Capa's finest games.

The Magnificent Genius: David Bronstein, 1924-2006

by Robert Hamilton

In December, the chess world lost one of its greatest players of all time with the passing of legendary David Bronstein. Widely acknowledged as one of the strongest players to have never won the World Championship, Bronstein was a remarkable creative genius whose play was characterized by daring sacrifices and intuitive attacks.

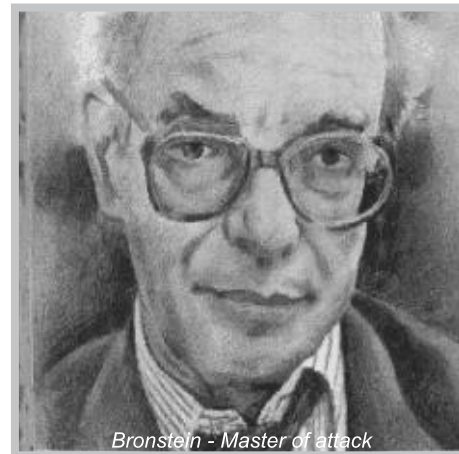
As a youth, Bronstein was a prodigious chess talent. He became the youngest master in the Soviet Union in 1940. He won the Kiev Championship at fifteen years of age and at sixteen he finished second in the powerful Ukrainian Championship behind the great Isaac Boleslavsky.

Being Jewish, he endured difficult times in the Soviet Union which were magnified in the years surrounding World War II. His father was imprisoned without evidence and his own university education was interrupted. During those years his chess development was on hold and he held down a variety of menial jobs just to get by.

As the end of the war approached Bronstein was drawn back to tournament chess. In the 1944 Soviet Championship he beat Mikhail Botvinnik. In 1945, he finished 3rd. His immense talent was obvious to all and his progression was amazingly swift in those years.

By 1948 he won the prestigious Interzonal tournament played in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, earning a spot in the most prestigious tournament in the World, the Candidates Tournament. He tied first in the Candidates in Budapest, 1950, and by winning the playoff match against Boleslavsky earned the right to battle World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik.

The 1951 World Chess Championship match, wound up being a titanic see-saw tilt with the lead changing hands throughout. As the end of the twenty-for-



Bronstein - Master of attack

image: www.skkamrateme.se

game match approached, Bronstein led by a score of 11.5-10.5. Two draws and the title was his. But he came up short, losing game 23 and drawing game 24 to tie the match. Back then the challenger had to defeat the champ to wrest the crown, so Botvinnik kept the title.

It is well known that in those years, Botvinnik was favoured by the Soviet authorities. Stories of Bronstein and Keres being asked to ease up in events at that time are abundant. The most Bronstein would ever say on the matter was that he was subject to considerable “psychological pressure.”

For the next ten years Bronstein was on a short list of favourites to make his way back to a title match and though he always was a contender in the qualifying stages, he could never repeat his earlier success.

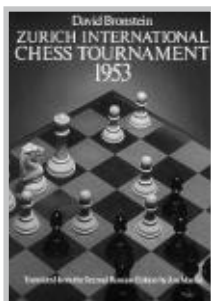
Outside of the World Championship cycle, Bronstein had many great successes. He twice tied first in the Soviet Championship and twice finished second. He was winner of the Moscow Championship six times and represented the Soviet Union in the Olympiad in 1952, 1954, 1956 and 1958. Remarkably he lost only 1 of 49 Olympiad games and his team won four Gold Medals.

Bronstein remained active in international tournaments until 1976 when

his right to travel was suspended because he refused to sign a letter condemning Victor Korchnoi for defecting. In 1977, his old friend and rival, Issac Boleslavsky died; and Bronstein married his daughter, Tatiana, in 1982.

When his travel ban was lifted Bronstein continued to play in international events and in 1994, at seventy years of age, he tied first in Hastings.

As an author, Bronstein received universal praise for his classic work on the Zurich Tournament of 1953. The book has reprinted time and time again.



www.chess.ca

He went on to co-author another classic in 1995, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, in which he, the Sorcerer, invites the reader to be his apprentice. He played a huge role in the evolution of the King's Indian Defence, including the special section he authored in the book, *Bronstein on the King's Indian*, 1999.

Always creative and intuitive, Bronstein left behind a vast assortment of fascinating games. The following, played against the mighty Paul Keres in 1955, is one such example.

Bronstein – Keres [E41] Gothenburg Interzonal (7), 1955 [Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

1. d4 ♘f6
2. c4 e6
3. ♘c3 ♗b4
4. e3

White chooses the Rubinstein system, which is still the most popular reply to the Nimzo-Indian today.

4. ... c5

Black chooses to counterattack in the centre immediately. More popular nowadays is 4... 0-0, with which Black keeps several options (...c5, ...d5, ...♗c3).

5. ♗d3

White develops the bishop to an attacking position. Later, it will be used to attack the h7 square.

5. ... b6

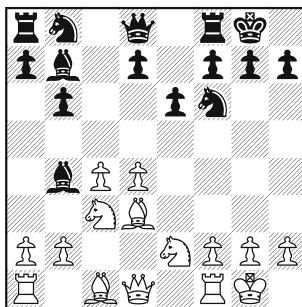
A rare move. The main line is 5... 0-0 6.

♖f3 d5 7. 0-0 ♖c6 8. a3 ♗c3 9. bc3 dc4 10. ♗c4. Many battles were fought here, even at the very highest level, for example after 10... ♗c7 11. ♗a2 b6 12. ♗e1 e5 13. e4 ♗g4 14. dc5 bc5 15. h3 White got a small edge which he converted to victory in Kasparov–Kramnik, Linares 1997.

6. ♘ge2 ♗b7
7. 0-0 cd4?!

Perhaps, Black should have waited with this exchange. Since White is ahead in development, Black should play cautiously. After 7... 0-0 Black might not have liked 8. d5!? ♗c3 (8... ed5! 9. cd5 ♘g4 with good counterplay) 9. ♖c3 ed5 10. cd5 d6 11. e4 with White standing much better.

8. ed4 0-0



9. d5!?

Bronstein is true to his style and chooses to get an unclear, tactical position instead of one with a small edge. White could get a great position with 9. ♗b3! and now after 9... ♗c3 (or 9... ♖c6 10. d5 ♖e5 11. ♗h7 ♖h7 12. ♗b4±) 10. ♖c3 ♖c6 11. ♗d1! White has better chances.

9. ... h6?!

In my opinion, this is an unnecessary weakening of the king's position, which later helps White develop a lovely attack. Black's best might be 9... ed5 10. cd5 ♖a6 finishing his development. White is only a bit better.

10. ♗c2!?

White is preparing for an attack, making the d3 square open for the queen. It is not clear what Black would play after 10. a3! since now 10... ♗c3 (best is probably 10... ♗e7 11. ♖d4! ed5 12. ♖d5 ♖d5 13. cd5 ♗f6 [13... ♗d5 14. ♗g4+–] 14. ♗g4 with a great attack) 11. ♖c3 ed5 12. cd5 ♖d5? does not work, because of the



Bronstein was famous for burning clock time early in the game

photo: www.spitsnet.nl

quiet 13. ♗f3 winning a piece.

10. ... ♖a6

Black is done with his development, but some of his pieces can become bad.

11. ♖b5!

Already here, White saw the coming piece sacrifice. Over the board, it is impossible to find the best moves in the arising complications. The idea of ♖b5 is to save the knight from exchange with Black's bishop.

11. ... ed5

Black decides to accept all offers. But now there is no way back!

12. a3

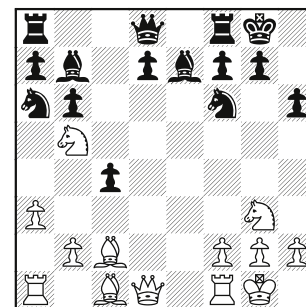
Pushing the bishop back.

- 12... ♗e7

13. ♘g3!

White demonstrates complete lack of concern for the queen-side.

13. ... dc4



Of course, Black had other moves, but why not take a pawn? It does not look as if White has serious threats...

14. ♗h6!!

The point of the previous 'strange'

moves. Black's king position opens up and White sends all his pieces to the attack!

14. ... gh6

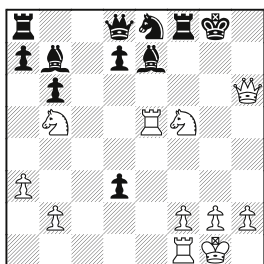
15. ♖d2

Black cannot defend the pawn on h6. After the queen arrives at h6, there will not be a defense against ♔f5 with mate. So Black has to do something fast. Here, Black's pieces on the queen-side are playing an important role in White's success—if they were just a bit more active, the combination would not be possible.

15. ... ♗h7

A very human reply to White's onslaught. Black tries to block the deadly c2 bishop using his f-pawn. Black could try to question White's play with 15... ♔c5!? trying to get the queen-side pieces playing but, even here, White has more than one resource to keep the attack going.

For example, 16. ♖ae1!? (defending the e4 square) 16... ♔d3 (the only way to block the bishop) 17. ♖h6 ♗e8 18. ♖e5 f5 19. ♔d3 cd3 20. ♔f5



Analysis

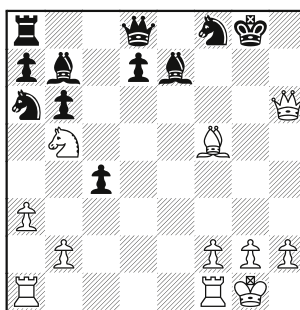
20... ♖f5 (20... ♔f6? 21. ♖g6 ♗g7 22. ♔h6 ♗h8 23. ♔d6 ♔e5 24. ♔df7 ♖f7 25. ♔f7 winning.) 21. ♖f5 ♗g7 22. ♖g6 ♖e8 23. ♖g3 with an unclear position.

16. ♖h6 f5

17. ♔f5 ♖f5

Black is forced to give up the material advantage.

18. ♔f5 ♗f8



In this unbalanced position, the onus is on White to get something more from the attack. Otherwise, Black's minimal material advantage should tell.

19. ♖ad1!

White urgently needs more pieces for the attack.

19. ... ♔g5

Black is trying to consolidate, meanwhile pushing White's pieces away from the taken positions.

20. ♖h5 ♖f6

21. ♔d6!

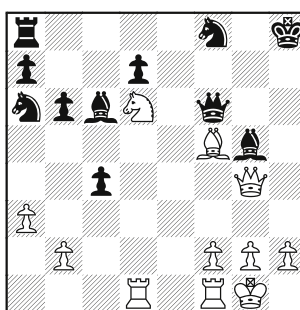
The knight is back in the game.

21. ... ♔c6

22. ♖g4

Making another small threat, this time f4 or h4.

22. ... ♗h8



23. ♔e4

White is happy to exchange Black's active piece, meanwhile opening the f5 square for other pieces.

23. ... ♔h6?!

After this move, Black is probably lost.

24. ♔c6 dc6

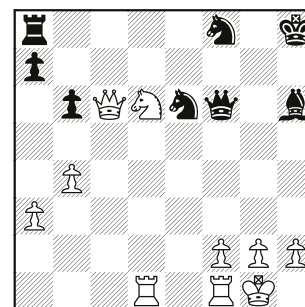
25. ♖c4

White points with a smile at the a6 knight, the main reason for Black not being able to set up a good defense.

25. ... ♔c5

26. b4 ♗ce6

27. ♖c6



White's material advantage becomes decisive.

27. ... ♖b8

Black avoids a little simplifying combination that would improve White's position: 27... ♔d8? 28. ♔f7 ♖f7 29. ♔d8 ♔d8 30. ♖h6!+.

28. ♔e4 ♖g6

29. ♔d6

Forcing Black to do some urgent evacuation of the sixth rank.

29. ... ♔g7

30. f4 ♖g4

31. h3! ♖e2

32. ♔g3

Giving Black no hope. The queen is being pushed out from the scene.

32. ... ♖e3

33. ♔h2 ♔d4

34. ♖d5 ♖e8

35. ♔h5

Black's king, with no pawn shelter, will really feel naked without that bishop.

35. ... ♔e2

The knight made a trip from a6 to e2, but too late.

36. ♔g7 ♖g3

37. ♔h1 ♔f4

38. ♖f3 ♔e2

39. ♖h6

This is a game which will be remembered for a long time!

1-0



Canadian Events

BC



One of Canada's emerging stars,
13-year-old Louie Jiang
photo: www.monroi.com

BC Junior Championship

1 Bindi Cheng	2173	W 15	W 3	W 11	L 2	W 10	4.0
2 Louie Jiang	2092	W 5	D 8	W 12	W 1	D 3	4.0
3 Arie Milner	1776	W 14	L 1	W 5	W 8	D 2	3.5
4 Chang He Li	1546	D 0	L 12	W 15	W 9	W 8	3.5
5 Jorge Prieto	1688	L 2	W 15	L 3	W 16	W 11	3.0
6 Jack (Kun) Cheng	1788	D 12	W 16	L 8	W 14	D 7	3.0
7 Vlad Gaciu	1917	L 8	D 9	W 16	W 11	D 6	3.0
8 Alexandra Botez	1609	W 7	D 2	W 6	L 3	L 4	2.5
9 Yifei Han	1646	L 10	D 7	W 13	L 4	W 16	2.5
10 Andrey Kostin	2047	W 9	L 11	D 14	W 12	L 1	2.5
11 Tanraj S. Sohal	1511	W 13	W 10	L 1	L 7	L 5	2.0
12 Sam Churchill	1606	D 6	W 4	L 2	L 10	D 13	2.0
13 Stefan Trandafir	1768	L 11	D 0	L 9	W 15	D 12	2.0
14 Michael Wee	1546	L 3	W 0	D 10	L 6	L 0	1.5
15 Yiming Han	1694	L 1	L 5	L 4	L 13	W 0	1.0
16 Foster Dylan Tom	1262	W 0	L 6	L 7	L 5	L 9	1.0

Alberta

Alberta Junior

Talented Eric Hansen turned in a perfect 3/3 score to win the four player round-robin Alberta Junior. David Mrugala finished second with 2/3, followed by Mark Caljuga and Jered Fokkema who each finished with 0.5/3.

Calgary Open

Eric Tam had his best result in recent years by tying first with Roy Yearwood in the Calgary Open. Each scored 4/5. Finishing tied for third were Arthur Milne and Rodney Weis. Vladimir Lapiy played well above his rating to join the four others in tying for fifth with 3/5.

Southern Alberta Open

Greg Huber turned in a sizzling 2479 performance to win the strong Southern Alberta Open with a convincing 4.5/5. Huber's only blemish was a last round draw with Victor Kaminski to seal clear first. Kaminski, Dale Haessel and Vladislav Rekhson all tied second with 4/5.

Edmonton Christmas Open

Vincente Lee yielded only a first round draw en-route to winning the 27 player Edmonton Christmas Open with 3.5/4. Winding up tied second with 3/4 were Sasha Grumic, Jason Wihnon and Connor Quinn.

B.C. Junior

Bindi Cheng and Louie Jiang tied first in the sixteen player British Columbia junior championship with 4/5 each.

Jaing nearly won the title, but was only able to draw his last round game against Arie Milner. With the last round draw, Arie pulled into a tie for third with Chang He Li, each scoring 3.5.

Jack Taylor 2006

Playing in his first event on Canadian soil, Denis Epple turned in a 2302 performance to win the Jack Taylor tournament outright with 4/5. Howard Wu and veteran Harry Moore tied for 2nd with 3.5/5. Tied fourth were Bindi Cheng and James Chan with 3/5 each.

More crosstables: www.chess.ca



Greg Huber — A sizzling 2479 performance to win the Southern Alberta Open
photo: www.monroi.com

Weekend before Christmas Team Tournament

This was a strong event, with the participation of masters Rob Sasata, Rob Gardner, Micah Hughey, Dale Haessel and Vlad Rekhson. Rob Sasata was the star, with a clean 5/5 score and a 2400 performance.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Open

Roger Blum lost just one game to grab first with 5/6 ahead of some much higher rated players. Keith MacKinnon was outright second with 4.5/6 followed by Chris Achtemichuk who wound up third with 4/6.

Pawn Push

Lyndon Soerensen yielded only a clinching draw to win the pre-Xmas Pawn Push Open with 4.5/5. Second place resulted in a three way tie between Waldemar Friesen, John McIntyre and Doug Inglis. Waldemar had a fine event, but didn't play the last round and dropped a full point.

Manitoba

Snow Flurries and Pawn Storm Open

Kevin Gentes, Aron Kapstan and Anthony Boron shared first with 3/4. Gentes was in clear first, but became peaceful, drawing his last two games. Daniel Oberton wound up alone in fourth with 2.5/4.

Southern Alberta Open

1 Gregory Huber	2328	W 13	W 10	W 3	W 6	D 2	4.5
2 Victor Kaminski	2294	W 11	W 24	D 0	W 8	D 1	4.0
3 Dale Haessel	2269	W 15	W 12	L 1	W 18	W 7	4.0
4 Vladislav Rekhson	2201	W 27	W 19	L 8	W 13	W 6	4.0
5 Brian Miller	1977	W 26	L 7	W 27	W 21	D 8	3.5
6 Sinisa Mitrovic	2281	W 16	W 18	W 7	L 1	L 4	3.0
7 Roy Yearwood	2154	W 14	W 5	L 6	W 10	L 3	3.0
8 Micah Hughey	2296	W 25	D 21	W 4	L 2	D 5	3.0
9 Vlad Andrei Constantinescu	1674	L 10	W 16	L 18	W 22	W 21	3.0
10 Jim Daniluk	2067	W 9	L 1	W 22	L 7	W 20	3.0
11 Chase Cunningham	1781	L 2	D 23	W 25	W 24	D 12	3.0
12 Thomas Kaminski	1972	W 28	L 3	D 0	W 14	D 11	3.0
13 Rick Pedersen	1882	L 1	W 20	W 19	L 4	D 15	2.5
14 Adam Harris	1788	L 7	W 26	D 24	L 12	W 23	2.5
15 Cashe Erskine	1772	L 3	L 22	W 30	W 27	D 13	2.5
16 Arthur Milne	1975	L 6	L 9	W 26	D 23	W 25	2.5
17 Graham Sorgard	1950	D 20	W 29	D 21	L 0	L 0	2.0
18 David Mrugala	1999	W 22	L 6	W 9	L 3	L 0	2.0
19 Tony Cai	1531	W 29	L 4	L 13	L 20	W 27	2.0
20 Paul Viminiz	1589	D 17	L 13	D 0	W 19	L 10	2.0
21 Bill Bentley	1893	W 30	D 8	D 17	L 5	L 9	2.0
22 Bronislaw Swiecicki	1545	L 18	W 15	L 10	L 9	W 28	2.0
23 Tom Corsmeier	1533	L 24	D 11	W 28	D 16	L 14	2.0
24 Samer Louise	1670	W 23	L 2	D 14	L 11	L 0	1.5
25 Tudor Constantinescu	1703	L 8	D 28	L 11	W 30	L 16	1.5
26 Kurt Berndtsson	1260	L 5	L 14	L 16	D 28	W 30	1.5
27 Jack Davies	1605	L 4	W 30	L 5	L 15	L 19	1.0
28 Mark Ting	1373	L 12	D 25	L 23	D 26	L 22	1.0
29 Eric Hansen	2203	L 19	L 17	L 0	L 0	L 0	0.0

Grand Prix Sectional

Veteran Jeff Babb turned in an excellent performance to take clear first in the top section of the double round robin Grand Prix Sectional with 5/6. Jason Reppa split with the field and wound up alone in second with 3/6.

Mike Sphan Memorial

Jeff Clark and Romeo Silva each scored 5/6 to tie first in the 20 player Mike Sphan Memorial. With his impressive result Clark tacked over 100 points onto his rating. Jaroslaw Czypinski was alone in third place with 4.5/6. Tied fourth were Blair Rutter and John Wierda, a half point back at 4/6.

Ontario

Guelph Pro Am

The Guelph Pro Am typically attracts a few of Canada's elite, but this time out the top rated player was Mario Cloutier at 2225. In the top section, the surprise winner was Aman Hambleton who was also the lowest rated section entrant. Aman finished with 3.5/5 and gained 80 rating points. Second place resulted in a big tie at 3/5 between Eric Bannon, Eric Beaulieu, Kevin Chung, Mario Cloutier and Marius Zubac.

Kingston Whig Standard

The fifteen player Kingston Whig Standard resulted in a four player tie for first between Peter Sibbald, Jordan Palmer, Wayne Coppin, and Brian MacDonald. Each scored 3.5/5. Top rated Brian Profit was unable to play his last round or he may well have joined the crowd in first.

Seaway Valley Open

Thirteen year old Lloyd Mai showed just how talented he is by running away with the 26 player Seaway Valley Open. Mai defeated CFC Executive Director Dave Gordon in their critical last game to score 4.5/5. Six players tied for second with 3.5/5 including Dave Gordon, Jerry Xiong, Zi Yi Qin, Gordon Ritchie, Guy Piche and Emil Smilovici.

London Open

Top ranked Steve Demery yielded only a draw en-route to winning the London Open with 3.5/4. Tied for second were veteran David Jackson, Ming-Jing Wong and Hugo Ortiz each finishing with 3/4.

Hamilton Open

Former Canadian Junior Champion Doug Bailey showed excellent form to win the Hamilton Open with a perfect 5/0. Veteran Frank Pushkedra finished alone in second a full point and a half behind at 3.5/5. Tied third were Josh Guo, Joe Ellis, Jaime Solis and Stan Percival each scoring 3/5.

Seaway Valley Open

1 Lloyd Mai	2264	D 12	W 21	W 11	W 3	W 2	4.5
2 David Gordon	2264	D 0	W 15	W 9	W 8	L 1	3.5
3 Jerry Xiong	2223	W 20	W 16	W 8	L 1	D 4	3.5
4 Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2028	W 25	D 9	D 0	W 16	D 3	3.5
5 Gordon Ritchie	1772	W 23	D 7	D 0	W 11	D 9	3.5
6 Guy Piche	1786	W 26	L 8	W 12	D 7	W 13	3.5
7 Emil Smilovici	1888	W 17	D 5	D 0	D 6	W 12	3.5
8 Karoly Szalay	2234	W 13	W 6	L 3	L 2	W 15	3.0
9 Ray Kuryliw	2196	W 18	D 4	L 2	W 20	D 5	3.0
10 William G. Doubleday	2240	D 15	L 12	D 0	W 17	W 16	3.0
11 Alex Danilov	2004	W 22	W 19	L 1	L 5	W 18	3.0
12 Sonja Xiong	1840	D 1	W 10	L 6	W 19	L 7	2.5
13 Steven Dale	1733	L 8	W 26	D 19	W 14	L 6	2.5
14 Jay Serdula	1819	L 19	W 22	D 20	L 13	W 21	2.5
15 Marcel Marcel	1808	D 10	L 2	D 17	W 25	L 8	2.0
16 Mate Marinkovic	1830	W 24	L 3	W 25	L 4	L 10	2.0
17 Zoltan Daku	1607	L 7	D 23	D 15	L 10	W 25	2.0
18 Herb Langer	1715	L 9	L 25	W 21	W 23	L 11	2.0
19 Ruokai (David) Li	1384	W 14	L 11	D 13	L 12	L 0	1.5
20 Melissa Darbyson	1607	L 3	W 24	D 14	L 9	L 0	1.5
21 Keven Eyre	1536	D 0	L 1	L 18	W 22	L 14	1.5
22 Timothy Bailey	1594	L 11	L 14	W 26	L 21	D 23	1.5
23 Agastya Kalra	1438	L 5	D 17	D 0	L 18	D 22	1.5
24 Karthikay Tyagi	1141	L 16	L 20	D 0	L 26	W 0	1.5
25 Grant Schaper	1544	L 4	W 18	L 16	L 15	L 17	1.0
26 George E Lloyd	1381	L 6	L 13	L 22	W 24	L 0	1.0

Hamilton Open

1 Doug Bailey	2273	W 11	W 3	W 2	W 7	W 9	5.0
3 Josh Guo	2077	W 6	L 1	D 9	W 5	D 2	3.0
4 Joe T. Ellis	1882	L 13	W 12	W 8	L 2	W 10	3.0
5 Jaime Solis	1639	D 7	D 10	W 11	L 3	W 13	3.0
6 Stan Percival	1750	L 3	L 11	W 0	W 13	W 12	3.0
7 Raymond Singh	1862	D 5	W 13	D 10	L 1	D 8	2.5
8 Brian Fortney	1705	L 9	W 0	L 4	W 12	D 7	2.5
9 Alexander Friedman	1947	W 8	L 2	D 3	D 10	L 1	2.0
10 Garvin Nunes	1702	D 0	D 5	D 7	D 9	L 4	2.0
11 Marijan Gasparac	1854	L 1	W 6	L 5	L 0	L 0	1.0
12 Robert Gillanders	1843	L 2	L 4	W 13	L 8	L 6	1.0
13 Lee Hendon	1634	W 4	L 7	L 12	L 6	L 5	1.0

Holidays Open

1 Leonid Gerzhoy	2432	W 10	W 8	D 4	W 2	D 3	W 7	5.0
2 Liam Henry	2294	W 23	W 12	W 3	L 1	W 8	D 6	4.5
3 Nikolay Noritsyn	2443	W 24	W 9	L 2	W 31	D 1	W 14	4.5
4 Michael Kimelman	2267	W 19	W 14	D 1	D 7	D 17	W 13	4.5
5 Yevgeni Nahutin	2207	W 18	D 0	D 13	W 20	D 14	W 15	4.5
6 Michael Barron	2334	D 13	D 0	W 46	W 22	W 9	D 2	4.5
7 Southam, David	2210	W 22	D 16	W 38	D 4	W 23	L 1	4.0
8 Alexander Martchenko	2162	W 42	L 1	W 33	W 18	L 2	W 22	4.0
9 Ilia Bluvshstein	2163	W 21	L 3	W 32	W 26	L 6	W 17	4.0
10 Sam Haziprodromu	2023	L 1	W 11	W 39	L 17	W 29	W 25	4.0
11 Jelovac Ivko	une	W 49	L 10	W 12	D 13	D 16	W 23	4.0
12 Balakumar Sivasankar	2149	W 17	L 2	L 11	W 39	W 33	W 26	4.0
13 Alan Ang	2000	D 6	W 15	D 5	D 11	W 31	L 4	3.5
14 Roman Sapozhnikov	2153	W 20	L 4	W 25	W 30	D 5	L 3	3.5
15 Bill Evans	2091	D 0	L 13	W 49	W 21	W 19	L 5	3.5
16 Alex Ferreira	2092	W 26	D 7	L 31	W 46	D 11	D 20	3.5
17 Haonan Zhou	1896	L 12	W 27	W 40	W 10	D 4	L 9	3.5
18 Chris Benson	1952	L 5	W 25	W 47	L 8	D 32	W 35	3.5
19 Omaray M. Shah	1977	L 4	D 31	W 36	W 35	L 15	W 32	3.5
20 Tyler Longo	1912	L 14	W 34	W 27	L 5	W 45	D 16	3.5
21 Sandeep Joshi	1665	L 9	W 39	D 35	L 15	W 36	W 31	3.5
22 Michael Kleinman	1974	L 7	W 33	W 34	L 6	W 38	L 8	3.0
23 Alex Rapoport	1989	L 2	W 30	W 28	W 38	L 7	L 11	3.0
24 John W. Chidley-Hill	2026	L 3	W 32	L 30	W 28	L 25	W 39	3.0
25 Oleg Tseluiko	1925	W 37	L 18	L 14	W 41	W 24	L 10	3.0
26 Yelizaveta Orlova	1895	L 16	W 40	W 41	L 9	W 34	L 12	3.0
27 Jerry Z. S. Wang	1409	W 29	L 17	L 20	L 33	W 47	W 38	3.0
28 Richard Laporte	1585	L 40	W 37	L 23	L 24	W 41	W 42	3.0
29 Alexandru Florea	1788	L 27	L 46	W 43	W 40	L 10	W 44	3.0
30 Simon Gladstone	1748	W 43	L 23	W 24	L 14	D 0	L 0	2.5
31 Dalia Kagramanov	1756	W 48	D 19	W 16	L 3	L 13	L 21	2.5
32 Jesse B.J. Wang	1888	W 35	L 24	L 9	W 44	D 18	L 19	2.5
33 Pino Verde	1888	W 44	L 22	L 8	W 27	L 12	D 34	2.5
34 Genadi Medvedev	1561	W 47	L 20	L 22	W 42	L 26	D 33	2.5
35 Stephen Lung	1529	L 32	W 43	D 21	L 19	W 46	L 18	2.5
36 Robert Liu	1293	L 39	D 0	L 19	W 47	L 21	W 46	2.5
37 Patrick Lung	1500	L 25	L 28	L 42	D 0	W 49	W 45	2.5
38 Gheorgh Buzila	unr	W 41	W 42	L 7	L 23	L 22	L 27	2.0
39 Nicholas Lancia	1692	W 36	L 21	L 10	L 12	W 48	L 24	2.0
40 Yimang Yang	1253	W 28	L 26	L 17	L 29	L 44	W 49	2.0
41 Dinesh Dattani	1347	L 38	W 49	L 26	L 25	L 28	W 48	2.0
42 Matthew Ramenaden	1934	L 8	L 38	W 37	L 34	W 43	L 28	2.0
43 Tony Volker	1372	L 30	L 35	L 29	W 49	L 42	W 47	2.0
44 David Farrant	1538	L 33	D 45	D 0	L 32	W 40	L 29	2.0
45 Jeff Pancer	1213	D 46	D 44	D 0	D 0	L 20	L 37	2.0
46 Laricla Soucho	unr	D 45	W 29	L 6	L 16	L 35	L 36	1.5
47 Chris Pearce	unr	L 34	W 48	L 18	L 36	L 27	L 43	1.0
48 Nathan Farrant-Diaz	1402	L 31	L 47	D 0	D 0	L 39	L 41	1.0
49 John A Rogers	1441	L 11	L 41	L 15	L 43	L 37	L 40	0.0

Toronto Junior & Bantam Championships

David Peng and Alexander Martchenko ran away with the eight player round robin Toronto Junior. Peng drew Martchenko and beat everyone else to score an impressive 6.5/7. Martchenko yielded on additional loss to grab outright second with 5.5/7. Nikita Gusev finished alone in 3rd, two full points back with 3.5/7. Crosstable on page 39.

The bantam section, a seven-player round robin, was won by Roman Sapozhnikov with 4.5/6. Not far back was Alexandru Florea who finished alone in second with 4/6.

2006 Holidays Open

IM Leonid Gerzhoy was the class of the field at the Toronto Holidays Open winning the 49 player event with 5/6 and a performance rating of 2500. Finishing alone in second was Liam Henry with 4.5/6 and his best-ever 2452 performance. Nikolay Noritsyn, Michael Kimelman, Yevgeni Nahutin and Michael Barron all wound up tied third with 4/6.

2007 Canadian Junior

Leonid Gerzhoy set a new Canadian record by winning the 37th Canadian Junior Championship with a perfect 6/6 score. Heading in, Gerzhoy and talented Nikolay Noritsyn were the two pre-tournament favourites, but Noritsyn had a sub-par outing. Gerzhoy now qualifies to represent Canada in the upcoming World Junior Championship.

Gerzhoy – Panjwani [E94] 2007 Canadian Junior (4)

1. ♖f3 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♖c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6
5. d4 0-0 6. ♗e2 e5 7. 0-0 c6 8. d5 ♗a6
9. ♗g5 h6 10. ♗h4 g5 11. ♗g3 ♖c5 12.
♗d2 a5 13. b3 ♗d7 14. a3 cd5 15. cd5
b5 16. b4 ab4 17. ab4 ♗a4 18. ♗b5 ♗b5
19. ♗b5 ♖c3 20. ♗a8 ♗a8 21. ♗c6 ♗a2
22. ♗e1 ♗c2 23. b5 h5 24. f3 ♗d3 25.
♗f2 ♗e2 26. ♗h1 ♗h6 27. ♗b1 h4 28.
♗d1 ♗c4 29. ♗a3 ♗a2 30. ♗c2 ♗a3 31.
♗e2 ♗h5 32. b6 ♗f4 33. ♗e3 ♗a6 34.
♗d1 g4 35. fg4 ♗a2 36. ♗f3 ♗c2 37. b7
♗h7 38. ♗h4 f5 39. gf5 ♗g2 40. ♗f2 ♗f4
41. ♗g1 ♗e2 42. ♗e1 ♗d4 43. ♗d4 ed4
44. ♗g4 ♗d2 45. ♗g1 ♗e3 46. f6 d3 47.
f7 ♗g5 48. ♗h5 ♗h6 49. ♗g6 ♗h8 50.
♗g8 1-0

Toronto Junior Championship

1 David (Yu) Peng	2264	X	=	1	1	1	1	1	1	6.5
2 Alexander Martchenko	1896	=	X	0	1	1	1	1	1	5.5
3 Nikita Gusev	1976	0	1	X	0	1	0	1	=	3.5
4 Harris Kaufman	1809	0	0	1	X	1	=	0	=	3.0
5 Michael Kleinman	1952	0	0	0	0	X	1	1	1	3.0
6 Robert Kleinman	1724	0	0	1	=	0	X	=	=	2.5
7 Tyler Longo	1843	0	0	0	1	0	=	X	1	2.5
8 Brendan Fan	1926	0	0	=	=	0	=	0	X	1.5

Canadian Junior Championship

1 Leonid Gerzhoy	2441	W 11	W 8	W 3	W 2	W 5	W 4		6.0
2 Raja Panjwani	2335	W 9	W 4	W 6	L 1	W 3	W 5		5.0
3 Nikolay Noritsyn	2438	W 5	W 6	L 1	D 4	L 2	W 7		3.5
4 Nikita Kraiouchkine	2061	W 12	L 2	W 9	D 3	W 8	L 1		3.5
5 Avinash Sundar	1997	L 3	W 10	W 8	W 11	L 1	L 2		3.0
6 Alexander Martchenko	2172	W 10	L 3	L 2	W 9	L 7	W 11		3.0
7 Aquino Inigo	1898	L 8	W 11	L 10	W 12	W 6	L 3		3.0
8 Nikita Gusev	2149	W 7	L 1	L 5	W 10	L 4	W 12		3.0
9 Haonan Zhou	1921	L 2	W 12	L 4	L 6	D 11	W 10		2.5
10 Pavel Rakov	1896	L 6	L 5	W 7	L 8	W 12	L 9		2.0
11 Timothy Tam	1904	L 1	L 7	W 12	L 5	D 9	L 6		1.5
12 Patrick Lung	1502	L 4	L 9	L 11	L 7	L 10	L 8		0.0

NB

Saint John City and District

Wily Bill Bogle captured yet another Saint John City and District title, scoring an impressive 4.5/5. Finishing second was Blair Taylor with 4/5. Blair gained about 50 points for his effort. Third place resulted in a two-way tie between veterans Brian Boyce and Ken Duff.

New Brunswick Closed

Bill Bogle was again near perfect in winning the New Brunswick closed with 4.5/5. Arch-rival Jonathan MacDonald lost their individual encounter and had to settle for second with 4.0/5. Neil Davies wound up third with 3.0/5.

New Brunswick Closed

1 Bill Bogle	2220	X	1	=	1	1	1	4.5
2 Jonathan MacDonald	2063	0	X	1	1	1	1	4.0
3 Neil Davis	2160	=	0	X	1	=	1	3.0
4 Mike Doherty	1835	0	0	0	X	=	1	1.5
5 Adrian Walker	1904	0	0	=	=	X	0	1.0
6 Liam Keith-Jacques	1925	0	0	0	0	1	X	1.0



Toronto Junior Champion David Peng
photo: www.monroi.com

PEI

PEI Open

Anthony Howarth was the class of the field, winning the Prince Edward Island Open with a perfect 5/5. Alone in second was veteran Fred McKim whose only loss was to Howarth. Michael Mac-Millan played well to finish third with 3.5/5.

Nova Scotia

Remembrance Day Open

Antoni Wysocki took two half point byes to start and then rattled off 5.5/6 to win first with 6.5/8. A full point back was Jose Gonzalez-Cueto who finished with 5.5/8. Third place resulted in a five-player tie between Brian Pentz, Shane Wang, Chris Felix, Paulo Ferreira and Hans Broersen, each scoring 5/8.

Newfoundland

Newfoundland Xmas Open

Alick Tsui, Bill Tucker and Jim Duffet all tied first with 3.5/5 in the Newfoundland Christmas Open. Tsui was heavily out-rated heading in. Dustin Cole, Gilbert Wong and Samir El-Gohary all wound up tied fourth with 3/5 each.

Canadians Abroad

Bluvshtein in Australia

Korenevski	2009	1
Farrell	unrated	1
Goldenberg	2358	1
Zhao	2455	0
Antic	2437	1
Johansen	2468	=
Rujevic	2278	1
Rogers	2526	=
Stojic	2204	1
Tredinnick	2189	=
Oliver	2146	1

Lawson in Cuba

Almeida	2500	1
Perez	2455	1
Zambrana	2428	0
Abreu	2465	0
Hernandez	2524	1
Gonzalez	2502	=
De La Paz	2442	1
Alvarez Pedraza	2439	0
Mosquera	2425	0
Vera	2510	1

Spraggett in Europe

Yanez Acin	2227	1
Fontbona	2227	1
Montell Lorenzo	2324	1
Movsziszian	2507	0
Gutierrez Jimenez	2276	=
Diaz	2232	1
Rahal	2390	1
Brynell Soto	2502	1
Flores	2514	1
Damljanovic	2625	=
Delchev	2637	=
Munizaba	2319	1
Miladinovic	2584	=
Markus	2586	0
Solak	2564	1
Macieja	2613	=
Korneev	2638	=
Ivanisevic	2596	=
Barcelo	2261	1
Zawadzki	2422	1
Neelotpal	2490	=
Dimakiling	2476	1
Cramling	2528	=
Vallejo Pons	2674	=
Hernandez	2524	=
Manik	2454	=
Gajewski	2515	1
Guliyev	2542	1
Simon	2388	1

Australian Open

Australia's Capital City of Canberra played host to the Australian Open Chess Championship from December 28th to January 9th. Mark Bluvshtein was among four Grandmasters to take part in the championship event. The eleven round event was won by Zong-Yuan Zhao who yielded only three draws en-route to a 9.5/11 finish. Finishing alone in second was veteran GM Ian Rogers with 9/11. Mark wound up tied third with Darryl Johansen each scoring 8.5/11.



Bluvshtein —Up Top Down Under
photo: www.monroi.com

Capablanca Memorial

Each year, Cuba's Capablanca Memorial consists of both a strong Round Robin tournament and a strong swiss event. This years closed event was won by Super Grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. Montreal's Eric Lawson was among

the participants in this years swiss, and he turned in a strong IM performance with victories over several strong players. There was nothing peaceful about Eric's performance. Only one of his games was drawn.

Kevin Spraggett

Kevin Spraggett had a great fall, participating in four events in Spain, Serbia & Montenegro and France. In those four events Kevin elevated his FIDE rating to an all time high. In 29 games against strong opponents Kevin suffered only two defeats.

Each year Canadian Chess Journalists vote on the Canadian Player of the year. For 2006, Kevin was the runaway winner with 25 votes. The only other person who received more than 5 votes was Igor Zugic, who received 15. Following is a wonderful victory by Kevin played at the Seville Open in Spain.

Spraggett – Fernandez Romero [C19]

32nd Seville Open (9), 15.01.2007

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♙b4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 ♙c3 6. bc3 ♖e7 7. ♖f3 ♗a5 8. ♙d2 ♙d7 9. h4 ♖bc6 10. h5 0-0-0 11. h6 gh6 12. ♙d3 ♗dg8 13. ♖f1 c4 14. ♙e2 ♖f5 15. a4 f6 16. ef6 ♗g6 17. ♖h4 ♖h4 18. ♗h4 ♗f6 19. ♙h6 ♗g8 20. ♗d2 ♖e7 21. ♙g5 ♗f7 22. ♙e7 ♗e7 23. ♙f3 b5 24. ♗c1!? ♗c3 25. ab5 ♙b5 26. ♗a3 ♗b4 27. ♗a1 ♖b8 29. ♗e3 ♗g6 30. ♗e5 a6 31. ♗f4 ♖a7 32. ♗e1 ♗g5 33. ♗g5 ♗f4 34. ♗d5 ♗g7 35. ♗c5 ♗d4 36. ♗c8 e5 37. ♗a8 ♖b6 38. c3 ♗f4 39. ♙d5!? ♗d7 40. g3 ♗g4 41. ♗b8 ♖a7 42. ♗g8 1-0

Profile: Chris Heringer

Drive along Main Street in any mid-size Canadian city and you'll see banks, restaurants, clothing stores and perhaps even city hall. But if you happen to be cruising along King Street in Kitchener, you'll see the Chess for Kids business in a prime retail location. Step inside and you'll be overwhelmed by the dozens of eager kids enrolled to learn chess.

Founded in the mid-nineties by Chris Heringer, Chess for Kids has had thousands of children register for lessons. According to Heringer, "Chess makes kids smart and chess builds self-esteem. Those are two things parents want for their kids."

Primarily targeting pre-teens, Chess for Kids features a three year program that advances kids from learning how to play to the point where they have a solid understanding of chess principles and can find hidden combinations. The program has

proven a big hit and it may be the most cleverly constructed kids program in Canada.

Now 29, Heringer developed his interest in chess in the early 1990s as a young player attending the Guelph city club. In 1993, Robert Hamilton moved to Guelph, and Heringer's chess took off. Within a few years he was among the best juniors in Canada.

In the early days of Chess for Kids, Heringer did most of the teaching. But as good fortune would have it, Andrew Peredun of Sault Ste. Marie chose to attend the University of Waterloo and wound up becoming the lead instructor on the Chess for Kids team. The vastly talented Peredun is both one of Canada's top players and a remarkably skilled instructor.

Heringer's entrepreneurial spirit it is not confined to chess. He recently purchased both a laundry



Chris Heringer — On the Move

business and an upscale restaurant—an eclectic mix indeed. Add in selling chess sets on US Shopping Channels and, well, you get the picture.

As with most young entrepreneurs, not everything Heringer touched turned to gold, but he's had a fascinating ride and he's sure proven that, when it comes to running a successful kids program, he's got a winning formula...www.chessforkids.ca.



Several thousand kids have enrolled at Chess for Kids

Kramnik vs Deep Fritz

by Robert Hamilton

The former capital city of Bonn, Germany played host to the recent man vs machine match between World Champion Vladimir Kramnik and the new edition of the world most successful commercial chess program, Fritz 10. The match boasted a \$1,000,000 prize fund and was sponsored by RAG, one of Europe's largest energy companies. As with some of the previous man vs machine matches, the event attracted an enormous amount of global media coverage.

Kramnik	½	0	½	½	½	0	2
Deep Fritz 10	½	1	½	½	½	1	4

For Vladimir Kramnik the task of being the human nominee to battle Fritz 10 was indeed daunting. In recent years, computers are surpassing humans, and the real issue seems to be how long humans can remain competitive. Computers have alarming calculating skills, and it's well known that the best way to play against a computer is to strive for 'quiet' positions in which human judgment has a chance to prevail.

As humans go, Kramnik may well be the best representative. He thrives on simplicity and has profound understanding of the middle and end games that arrive from his openings. Though Fritz wound up beating Kramnik, the match was a lot closer than the score indicated. Here's a quick summary.

Round 1: Kramnik played his Catalan as White and carried a miniscule advantage he couldn't convert to the ending.

Round 2: Kramnik played a rare variation of the Queen's Gambit as Black and equalized fast. He later obtained a nice edge, but he first missed best play and then made a horrific blunder to lose.

Round 3: Kramnik played another Catalan, but this time there just wasn't enough from the opening to hope for a win. A well played game by Fritz.

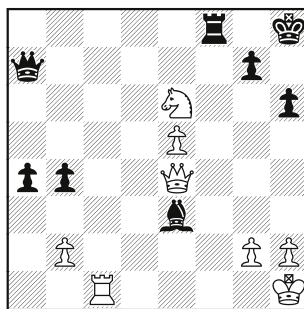
Round 4: In a Petroff, Fritz obtained a very annoying advantage as White. This is the kind of game it's easy to play over and think nothing special happened...but Kramnik defended brilliantly to hold the draw.

Round 5: The last hurrah with White for Kramnik, and he got a position many felt he could have won. But Fritz, ever alert, held the draw.

Round 6: Everyone knows that it's not a good idea to play the Sicilian against silicon. But Kramnik needed a win to level the match. Not surprisingly, Fritz found several creative moves and won.

Were it not for the gaping error in game 2, Kramnik would never have had to commit suicide in game 6. He's probably had nightmares about the following position several times since.

Game 2



Black (Kramnik) to move.

33... ♖c1?

After 33... ♖e8 Black is better.

34. ♖f8

Now the logical continuation is 34... ♖g8 35. ♖g6 ♖b2 36. ♖d5 ♖h7 37. ♖f8 ♖h8 38. ♖g6 with a draw. Instead, unbelievably, Kramnik fell into

34... ♖e3?? 35. ♖h7# 1-0

The match swung on that oversight.



Deep Fritz 10 – Kramnik [C43] Man vs Machine (4), 01.12.2006

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. d4 ♖e4 4. ♔d3 d5 5. ♖e5 ♖d7 6. ♖d7 ♔d7 7. 0-0 ♔d6 8. ♖h5 ♖f6 9. ♖c3 ♖d4 10. ♖d5 ♖c6 11. ♖e3 g6 12. ♖h3 ♖g5 13. ♖g4 ♖f4 14. ♖f4 ♖f4 15. ♖c4 ♖e6 16. ♖f4 ♖f4 17. ♖fe1 ♖f8 18. ♖f1 ♖b5 19. a4 ♖a6 20. b4 ♖c4 21. ♖c4 ♖d8 22. ♖e4 ♖h5 23. ♖ae1 ♖d7 24. h3 ♖g7 25. ♖e5 ♖f5 26. ♖b5 c6 27. ♔d3 ♖d6 28. g4 ♖g7 29. f4 ♖hd8 30. ♖g2 ♖c8 31. a5 ♖d4 32. ♖5e4 ♖f8 33. ♖f3 h6 34. ♖d4 ♖d4 35. ♖e4 ♖d6 36. ♖e3 g5 37. ♖d4 ♖e7 38. c4 ♖d4 39. ♖d4 g4 40. ♖e4 ♖f6 41. ♖f4 ♖e7 42. ♖e4 b6 43. c5 bc5 44. bc5 ♖g6 45. ♖e3 ♖e7 46. ♖d4 ♖e6 47. ♖f3 f5 48. ♖d1 ♖f6 49. ♖c2 fg4 50. hg4 ♖e6 51. ♖b1 ♖f6 52. ♖e4 ♖e6 53. ♖h1 ♖f6 54. ♖f3 ♖e6 ½-½

Deep Fritz 10 – Kramnik [B86] Man vs Machine (6), 05.12.2006

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♖d4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♖c4 e6 7. 0-0 ♖e7 8. ♖b3 ♖c7 9. ♖e1 ♖c6 10. ♖e3 0-0 11. ♖g3 ♖h8 12. ♖c6 bc6 13. ♖e2 a5 14. ♖g5 ♖a6 15. ♖f3 ♖ab8 16. ♖e1 c5 17. ♖f4 ♖b7 18. ♖c1 ♖g8 19. ♖b1 ♖f6 20. c3 g6 21. ♖a3 ♖c6 22. ♖h3 ♖g7 23. ♖g3 a4 24. ♖c2 ♖b6 25. e5 de5 26. ♖e5 ♖f6 27. ♖h4 ♖b7 28. ♖e1 h5 29. ♖f3 ♖h7 30. ♖a4 ♖c6 31. ♖c6 ♖c6 32. ♖a4 ♖b6 33. b3 ♖g8 34. c4 ♖d8 35. ♖b5 ♖b7 36. ♖fe3 ♖h6 37. ♖e5 ♖c1 38. ♖c1 ♖c6 39. ♖c3 ♖c7 40. ♖b5 ♖f8 41. ♖a4 ♖dc8 42. ♖d1 ♖g7 43. ♖d6 f6 44. ♖e2 e5 45. ♖ed2 g5 46. ♖b6 ♖b8 47. a4 1-0

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The Fischer Find

Winter days in Iceland might sound boring, but chess fans need only turn on the television. Iceland runs some excellent shows on chess. One two-hour show, on a recent Saturday, featured a rapid chess match between Bragi Thorfinnsson and Arnar Gunnarsson. Here's how one of the games went.

Thorfinnsson – Gunnarsson [C50]
Icelandic TV, 09.12.2006

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙c4 d6 4. d3
♙e6 5. ♙e6 fe6 6. c3 ♗d7 7. 0-0 ♘f6
8. b4 a6 9. a4 ♙e7 10. ♘a3 0-0 11.
♘c4 b5 12. ab5 ab5 13. ♘a5 d5 14.
♙g5 ♙d6 15. ♙e1 h6 16. ♙h4 ♘a5
17. ba5 b4 18. ♗b3 ♗b5 19. ♙f6 gf6
20. c4 dc4 21. dc4 ♗c6 22. ♘h4
♘h7 23. c5 ♙e7 24. ♗b4 ♙c5 25.
♗b3 ♙d4 26. ♙ac1 ♗d7 27. ♗a3
♗d6 28. ♗f3 ♙a5 29. ♗h5 ♙g8 30.

♗f7 ♙g7 31. ♗f6 ♙a2 32. ♙f1 ♙e2
33. ♗f3 ♙d2 34. ♗f6 ♙e2 35. h3?
♙e4 36. ♙c6 ♗c6 37. ♘f5



Black to move

Unbelievably, Gunnarsson touched his king here with Black and was forced to move it, resulting in a mate in one.

37... ♔g8?? 38. ♗g7 1-0

For the audience, a little drama in watching the win change hands so



Living Legend Bobby Fischer

photo: www.img.photobucket.com

quickly. But the real drama occurred when Bobby Fischer called GM analyst Helgi Olafsson after the game to point out how Black ought to have polished White off in the diagram position. According to Fischer, 37... ♙g2! seals the deal: after 38. ♔h1 ♙h4!! Black wins quickly. For example, 39. f3 Rg1! It seems Fischer hasn't lost his killer instinct.



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The Art of Samuel Bak

Over the past 1500 years, the chess goddess Caissa has inspired art in various forms. Among the great contemporary artists to focus on chess is Samuel Bak, a Jewish painter born in Vilna, Poland, 1933.

Bak's remarkable paintings of battlefield chess are full of images of sacrifice, foot soldiers, enemy lines and destruction. His own war-time experiences, and those of his stepfather, have had a big influence on his art.

Bak spent WWII under German occupation, and later wound up in displaced persons camps in Ger-

many. He immigrated to Israel in 1948, later studying art at the Bezalel Art School in Jerusalem and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. From 1959 to 1993 he was a world traveler, living in Rome, Israel, New York, Paris and Switzerland. In 1993 he settled in Weston, Massachusetts. Bak's art has been displayed at Gallery and Museum exhibitions in major centres throughout the world.

With so much great art to choose from, it's been tough deciding what to print on these two pages. The trench warfare scene below, with the opponent's stronghold seeming like a

mirage on the horizon, is called *Sheltering Myths*. The painting on the right, in which the Pawn has been assigned special responsibilities, is *The Designated*.

Bak's exploration of chess themes has led to dozens of astonishing chess/war paintings. Interested readers can visit the Internet showcase at

www.puckergallery.com.

A special thanks to the Pucker Gallery for permitting Chess Canada to print his work.







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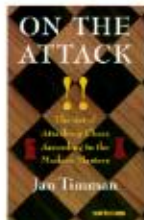
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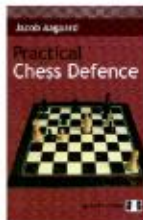
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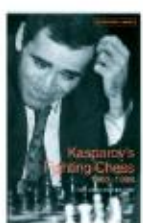
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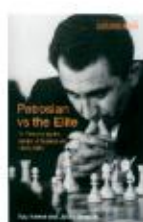
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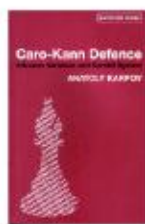
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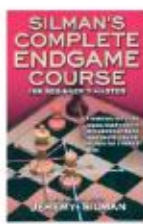
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AB

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 second Saturday monthly, Rooty Hill Cup, **Okotoks**


NB

Club d'Échecs Régional Chaleur Regional Chess Club,
 see www.madisco.ca/CRCC/calendrier.htm


NS

May 18-21, Nova Scotia Open, **Halifax**
 June 29 - July 2, George Beals Canada Day Open, **Halifax**
 August 3-6, Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Open, **Halifax**
 August 31 - September 3, Paul Hake Labour Day Open, **Halifax**
 November 9-12, Remembrance Day Open, **Halifax**


PQ

July 16-23, Quebec Open (part of Montreal Chess Festival), **Montreal**


ON

April 14-15, McIntosh Open, **Morrisburg**
 May 5-6, Guelph Spring Pro-Am, **Guelph**
 May 5-6, R.N. Webb Memorial, **Arnprior**
 May 11-13, Ontario High School Championship, location to be announced
 June 9-10, Eastern Ontario Open, **Ottawa**
 July 3-6, Canadian Youth Championship, **Ottawa**
 July 7-15, 2007 Canadian Open, **Ottawa**
 August 17-27, Belzberg Invitational 2007 Canadian Closed & Zonal, **Toronto**
 every Sunday, Junior tournaments, Chess Academy of Canada, **Toronto**
 also see www.chessacademycanada.com



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Top since 1980



1. Kevin Spraggett	2665	1999
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5. Dimitry Tyomkin	2570	2006
6. Peter Biyiasis	2555	1980
7. Mark Bluvshstein	2553	2005
8. Duncan Suttles	2550	1982
9. Yan Teplitsky	2549	1997
10. Igor Zugic	2539	2006
11. Bryon Nickoloff	2536	1988
12. Ron Livshits	2536	1999
13. Jean Hébert	2534	1998
14. Tomas Krnan	2532	2006
15. Pascal Charbonneau	2531	2006
16. Tom O'Donnell	2514	1989
17. Lawrence Day	2514	1997
18. Oleg Linskiy	2509	2002
19. Marat Khassanov	2496	1998
20. Michael Schleifer	2494	1999

Top Canadians



1. Dimitry Tyomkin	2570
2. Igor Zugic	2553
3. Mark Bluvshstein	2542
4. Tomas Krnan	2532
5. Pascal Charbonneau	2531
6. Tom O'Donnell	2472
7. Leonid Gerzhoy	2461
8. Thomas Roussel-Roozmon	2454
9. Zhe Quan	2436
10. Eric Lawson	2420
11. Nikolay Noritsyn	2418
12. John C. Yoos	2417
13. Jean Hébert	2411
14. Robert Hamilton	2408
15. Ron Livshits	2405
16. Jura Ochkoos	2402
17. Stephen Glinert	2401
18. Grant Spraggett	2382
19. Igor Divljan	2374
20. Shiyam Thavandiran	2372

Top Women



1. Natalia Khoudgarian	2262
2. Hazel Smith	2223
3. Nava Starr	2135
4. Irina Barron	2119
5. Daniela Belc	2069
6. Amanda Benggawan	2058
7. Doina Brestoiu	2003
8. Myriam Roy	1978
9. Julia Lacau-Rodean	1891
10. Yelizaveta Orlova	1881
11. Alexandra Botez	1878
12. Natasa Serbanescu	1854
13. Tiffany Tang	1807
14. Sonja Xiong	1805
15. Dalia Kagramanov	1778
16. Jasmine Du	1770
17. Gordana Maric	1718
18. Patricia Ho	1695
19. Claire Woodworth	1673
20. Melissa Darbyson	1617

Top Under 18



1. Zhe Quan	2436
2. Nikolay Noritsyn	2418
3. Shiyam Thavandiran	2372
4. David (Yu) Peng	2335
5. Victor Kaminski	2304
6. Lloyd Mai	2275
7. Louie Jiang	2245
8. Kevin Chung	2236
9. Hazel Smith	2223
10. Jerry Xiong	2220
11. Bindi Cheng	2217
12. Karoly Szalay	2215
13. Noam Davies	2210
14. Sammy Yao	2202
15. Trevor Vincent	2178
16. Roman Sapozhnikov	2155
17. Alexander Martchenko	2148
18. Eric Hansen	2148
19. Aman Hambleton	2120
20. Nikita Gusev	2118

Top Under 16



1. Nikolay Noritsyn	2418
2. Shiyam Thavandiran	2372
3. Victor Kaminski	2304
4. Lloyd Mai	2275
5. Louie Jiang	2245
6. Kevin Chung	2236
7. Hazel Smith	2223
8. Jerry Xiong	2220
9. Karoly Szalay	2215
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11. Roman Sapozhnikov	2155
12. Eric Hansen	2148
13. Alexander Martchenko	2148
14. Aman Hambleton	2120
15. Nikita Gusev	2118
16. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2108
17. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2097
18. Avinash Sundar	2076
19. Shane Wang	2053
20. Alan Ang	2045

Top under 14



1. Lloyd Mai	2275
2. Louie Jiang	2245
3. Jerry Xiong	2220
4. Karoly Szalay	2215
5. Roman Sapozhnikov	2155
6. Alexander Martchenko	2148
7. Nikita Gusev	2118
8. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2108
9. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2097
10. Avinash Sundar	2076
11. Richard Huang	2018
12. Myriam Roy	1978
13. Michael Kleinman	1975
14. Thomas Kaminski	1968
15. Arie Milner	1965
16. Kevin Gibson	1957
17. Keith MacKinnon	1953
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19. Liam Keith-Jacques	1899
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